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> *On an annualized basis...we're looking at between $10 million and $12 million in over-expenditure or over-obligation.*
>
> —Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos

Furloughs in July loom

NMI GOVT PROJECTS UP TO $12M OVER-EXPENDITURE

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration projects between $10 million and $12 million in over-expenditure by the end of Fiscal Year 2009 and, unless federal stimulus money comes in soon, government employees whose contracts expire in July may have to be furloughed, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said.

See FURLOUGHS on Page 4

MADE IN THE MARIANAS — HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Tinian craftswoman Emy Bugarin, right, takes stock of the necklaces and earrings she made from tangan-tangan seeds and talisay tasi seeds, as a customer looks at the crafts for sale in yesterday's Made in the Marianas Festival at the NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan. Visitors to the event, sponsored by the Off the Beaten Path and the NMI Museum, got to enjoy free wine and other drinks, listen to local music, and buy or marvel at local arts, crafts and other products.

Flood of letters want share of $600K garment fund's residuals

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Garment Workers Trust Fund has been receiving a flood of letters from former garment workers who want to avail of the $600,000 intended to assist garment workers who are still on Saipan and are facing hardships.

Trust fund chair Timothy H. Bellas told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that

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Success stories take center stage at PIEC

RELATED NEWS

- 125,451 tons of recyclables collected in 3 months. PAGE 2
- Micronesia Challenge faces its own challenges. PAGE 3

BY ANITA B. HOFSCHNEIDER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For Jesus C. Borja of Susupe, water is a precious commodity. He values it even more than electricity, and that is why several years ago he decided that he could not continue to rely on the CNMI

See SUCCESS on Page 4

2-year contracts for teacher aides OK'd

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Teacher aides and teacher assistants in public schools will be provided a longer term of employment beginning this new school year.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan approved the issuance of two-year contracts for teacher aides and teacher assistants, saying it is in the best interest of the system and its students.

Sablan said yesterday that this will ensure the "continuity and retention" of

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you plan to attend any of the sessions in the ongoing 26th Pacific Islands Environmental Conference at the Saipan World Resort?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of June 24, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

McMahon, 86

Ed McMahon, the loyal "Tonight" show sidekick, died early Tuesday. He was 86.

LIFE & STYLE ...Page 18

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Local

Division of Environmental Quality director Frank Rabauliman, left, and Coastal Resources Management director Dr. John Joyner, right, present an award to Koblerville Elementary School representatives for being the first place winner in the 2009 recycling contest for collecting 100,600 lbs of recyclable materials, at yesterdays' opening of the 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

125,451 tons of recyclables collected in 3 months

School vendors to start using reusable food containers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Hundreds of participants at the 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference, including U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 acting administrator Laura Yoshii and panelists, lauded CNMI schools' collection of 125,451 tons of recyclable materials in just three months.

"Just imagine how much we could all recycle in a year," said Reina Camacho, public information officer of the Division of Environmental Quality, as she announced the winners of the recycling contest at Tuesday's opening of the environment conference.

Camacho, in an interview, also said the Public School System's food vendors will no longer use disposable food wrappers and containers by the start of the new school year in August.

"The school vendors will be using reusable food containers and wrappers, and that, to us is another environmental success story," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune.*

The recycling competition was one of DEQ's contests during the 2009 Environmental Awareness Month in April.

DEQ director Frank Rabauliman, DEQ deputy director David Rosario and Coastal Resources Management director Dr. John Joyner presented the prizes to the winners, led by Koblerville Elementary School, which won first place by collecting 100,600 lbs of recyclable materials.

The second place winner, San Antonio Elementary School, which collected 11,398 lbs, followed by third place winner Kagman Elementary School.

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School won fourth place with 3,300 lbs, followed by fifth place winner Oleai Elementary School.

DEQ also awarded the winners of the logo contest: In Ae Lee, a 12th grader at Saipan Southern High School, first place; Andy Beom Gyu Ji, a 9th grader at the Northern Marianas Academy, second place; and Wayne Dawe, an 11th grader at Kagman High School, third place.

Lallane Guiao, a ninth grader also at SSHS, won first prize at the essay writing contest, followed by JD Torres, a 12th grader at Marianas Baptist Academy, and Sarah Lee, also a 12th grader at MBA.

Dominating the poem contest was Jenny Sablan, a 6th grader at GTC Elementary School, followed by Noel Jimenez Jr., a 6th grader at Garapan Elementary School, and Jessa Mae Camacho, a 5th grader at Tanapag Elementary School.

Yoshii, at the opening of the environmental conference facilitated by CNMI program manager for EPA Michael Mann and DEQ's Fran Castro, also recognized this year's EPA environmental awardees—the Friends of the Monument, and Betwin Alokoa, Karl Olson and Mercy Muña of the Guam EPA Pesticides Program.

The environmental conference wraps up today with several field trips for the participants.

Anatahan emergency declaration extended

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Six years after the sudden eruption of the Anatahan volcano in 2003, travels to the island are still prohibited.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial extended for another 30 days the state of disaster emergency declaration for Anatahan. The declaration expires at the end of this month, and is expected to be extended anew.

The one-month emergency declaration says Anatahan remains unsafe for human habitation and continues to ban all travels to the island except for scientific expeditions.

Joaquin P. Omar of the Emergency Management Office had told Fitial in a memorandum before the expiration of the previous extended declaration that while Anatahan volcano appeared to have entered a quiescent period, "it is still possible for more activity, including gas and ash emissions at any time with little or no warning."

The declaration maintains the off-limits zone from 10 nautical miles to 3 nautical miles around Anatahan until further notice.

"Under these conditions, restriction of entry to the said island should continue until a thorough scientific study is done and that the findings suggest otherwise," Omar told Fitial.

Anatahan volcano, located 75 miles north of Saipan, suddenly erupted on the evening of May 10, 2003. It spewed out clouds of ashes that reached Philippine jurisdiction. No one was directly threatened by the initial strong explosive activity, because residents had long evacuated the small volcanic island.

Then Gov. Juan N. Babauta issued the first emergency declaration on May 13, 2003, and the declaration has always been extended every month since then.

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'Funds for Tinian retro payments expired in FY06'

Delegation chair slams Hofschneider for 'politicizing' issue

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, Sen. Joseph M. Mendiola, slammed fellow senator Jude Hofschneider—also a member of the delegation—accusing him of politicizing the retroactive payment issue on Tinian for his own benefit.

This came after Hofschneider disclosed that the Tinian municipal government had spent all the $600,000 it had collected from the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino in 2007 instead of depositing half of the amount to pay for the retroactive salaries of Tinian employees, as mandated by a local ordinance. Hofschneider had called for an investigation on the matter, saying it is a violation of the law.

But Mendiola, in a letter to Hofschneider yesterday, said he would not support "any move that entails self-posturing for political gain by playing on public sentiments."

He said the provision in Tinian Local Ordinance 11-01 relating to the reservation of funds for retroactive salary payments expired at the conclusion of Fiscal Year 2006. That prompted majority of delegation members to seek other avenues and resources to satisfy the remaining retroactive salaries owed the employees, Mendiola said.

He said Hofschneider had opposed what delegation members had agreed upon but the delegation and the Tinian municipal council opted to proceed without his blessing.

Mendiola questioned the timing of Hofschneider's interest in the issue, which he said should have been expressed in 2007.

"It took me by surprise that you are suddenly making this a very important issue less than five months before the general election although you have been aware of the 'gravity' of this situation since 2007 and have not taken any action during the past two years. Why the sudden interest?" Mendiola asked.

The chairman said one can only surmise that Hofschneider's prior inaction and current unexpected interest on the matter is intended to politicize the situation for his own benefit.

Mendiola admitted receiving a request for a formal investigation on the matter on June 17.

"You have stated that you have investigated and have found the 'gravity' of the situation and is recommending a formal investigation by the delegation. …Needless to say, what is odd is that you only wrote to me and not even provided a courtesy copy to other members and the municipal council," he said.

The chairman said Hofschneider has suddenly become a "responsible public servant" on the issue—just months away before the election period.

He reminded his fellow senator of the important role played by the Tinian Municipal Council in the local budget process of the municipality.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to contact Hofschneider for his side of the story.

Mendiola belongs to the Covenant Party while Hofschneider is a Republican ally.

Delegation members include Sen. Henry San Nicolas and Rep. Edwin Aldan, both of the Covenant Party.

Tinian Local Law 11-01's sections 404(f) and 302(b) require the creation of a special account into which must be deposited money received from Dynasty for payment of arrears on license fee and taxes.

Saipan Tribune learned that over a hundred Tinian municipal employees have yet to receive half of their retroactive salary payment under the 1991 government salary adjustment law.

Kaipat removes Hirshbein as Labor director

Barry Hirshbein went back to work on Monday, not as the Labor director but in his previous capacity as Labor administrative hearing officer.

"This job always was and will always be very challenging," Hirshbein told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Hirsbein said he was on a 10-day vacation leave when he received a memorandum from acting Labor Secretary Cinta Kaipat that he is no longer the Labor director.

He refused to comment further.

Hirshbein, a former prosecutor, served as Labor director for one year and six months.

Kaipat appointed Glenda Reyes of the Labor Processing Section as acting Labor director. Glenda Reyes is the sister of Senate President Pete Reyes.

Saipan Tribune tried yesterday afternoon to obtain comments from Kaipat for the reason behind Hirshbein's replacement, but a staff said Kaipat was in a meeting and that the acting Secretary will respond through e-mail.

As of press time, Kaipat has yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune*'s two e-mails.

It was Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas who appointed then Labor hearing administrator Hirshbein to the Labor director position in December 2007. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Micronesia Challenge faces its own challenges

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Local communities not well versed in the program, poor communication within the region, and funding issues are just some of the many challenges the Micronesian Challenge itself is facing.

Charlene Mersai, regional coordinator for the Challenge, said the biggest hurdle is communicating the idea to local communities.

"For the challenges, there's too many. The biggest one is the awareness level of the people. The Micronesian Challenge is not yet well-understood by local communities," she said.

Mersai was one of the presenters in yesterday's session of the ongoing 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference at the Lilac Room of Saipan World Resort.

The Micronesian Challenge—a commitment shared by the five governments of the CNMI, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands and Palau—commits the five areas to conserve 30 percent of their near-shore marine resources and 20 percent of terrestrial resources by 2020. A brainchild of former Palau president Tommy Remengesau Jr., the Micronesian Challenge is intended to ensure effective conservation of island ecosystems.

Mersai said Palau has already exceeded its 20/30 percent targets since the program was launched in 2006, while the four other jurisdictions have a long way to go.

The reason for this is that most areas in Palau are public lands, in contrast to the areas in FSM where most of the conservation areas identified are privately owned and maintained by traditional systems.

Mersai said they understand how indigenous people in the community maintain their lands using traditional means because they practice it in their daily lives but there might be traditional systems that are not effective and efficient and that's where the Micronesian Challenge will come into play.

"Our commitment is for the people in the community. It's really about the people. We are committed to ensure the preservation of their culture and livelihood," she said.

She said there is a need for improvement at both regional and local levels as well as sustainable financing mechanisms that need high-level commitment.

Mersai also admitted that effective conservation measures are difficult to identify and there is a need for each area to promote the Challenge's financial needs at the international level.

Mersai said The Nature Conservancy has pledged $6 million while the Micronesian Challenge Endowment capitalized $1.5 million from Palau and the Global Environment Fund's proposal of $6 million for the endowment is almost finalized.

LifeWeb, a European funding institution, has also awarded a $1.9 million grant to assist ongoing efforts for the program.

The Micronesian Challenge is envisioned as a benchmark for the world such as the Caribbean Challenge and the Coral Triangle Initiative.

"[It is] an opportunity that can ensure a worthy inheritance of functional and intact ecosystems for Micronesians tomorrow," Mersai said.

DEQ to start implementing wastewater regs

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Division of Environmental Quality will soon implement the newly approved regulations on wastewater treatment and disposal.

The new regulations (NMIAC 65-120) were published in the Commonwealth Register on June 22.

DEQ Director Frank M. Rabauliman signed the proposed regulation on June 18 and were filed on the same day.

The new regulations, which will be effective 10 days from the date of publication in the Commonwealth Register, state that proper design, construction and operation of wastewater systems will provide personal and public benefits through the protection of groundwater and surface water.

The regulations also state that public health can be significantly impacted by improper design and continued use of substandard disposal systems and that waste from livestock also impacts the quality of groundwater, surface water and public health.

The purpose of the new regulations is to protect the health of the wastewater disposal system user and his/her neighbors, establish minimum standards that would ensure that the discharge of wastewater will not contaminate or degrade the groundwater in the CNMI, any bathing beach, shellfish breeding ground or stream used for public or domestic water supplies and other impacts to public health.

The new regulations are also envisioned to provide reasonable service life for such systems and registration and requirements for sanitary waste hauling and disposal.

SUCCESS

From Page 1

water system.

"It wasn't only the pressure, it was also the amount of water," he said yesterday. "They were always telling us that there wasn't enough."

Borja set up his own system that collects rainwater. But yesterday he said that he is considering reconnecting to the CNMI water system.

"I have to give them credit," he said of the CNMI Water Task Force. Borja's mother also resides in Susupe, and Borja said that since the task force completed its work in their village, she has not had any problems with water.

"Her tank is always full," he said. "The water now goes into her tank every day."

Borja's story is one of many on an island that as recently as December 2006 was only able to provide 24 hour piped water to 26 percent of the population.

"We've made great strides in our goal toward 24 hour piped water," said Mariano Iglesias, manager of the Water and Wastewater Division of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., at the 26th Pacific Islands Environmental Conference yesterday. Iglesias was part of a panel that discussed successful Pacific environmental projects.

"We're at 80 percent towards completing our sanitation goals," Iglesias said.

Improvements

Areas of water supply that have seen improvement since the Water Task Force was established in 2003 by then governor Juan N. Babauta include distribution, metering, leak detection, and prevention of source contamination.

"We meter everyone on island," said Iglesias.

Other advances include 1.2 million gallons of water a day that have been recovered in Chalan Kanoa and Susupe; increased water pressure in San Antonio and Koblerville; and 24-hour piped water now available in parts of Garapan and Capitol Hill.

Between December 2006 and December 2007, the portion of the island with 24-hour piped water increased from 26 percent to 54 percent. Today Iglesias estimates that percentage to fall between 70 and 80 percent.

"We're very, very close," said Iglesias. He would not quantify, though, how long it will take for the whole island to receive 24-hour water.

"It's doable in two years," he said. "But it all depends on the funding we receive."

The Water Task Force has been receiving about $2 million a year from the capital improvement project funds, said Iglesias, but the amount has been steadily decreasing since 2005. "We need to be persistent," he said.

Parts of San Jose, Garapan, Capital Hill, Tanapag, San Roque, Papago, San Vicente, and As Lito still receive as little as two hours of water a day.

Saipan remains the only municipality of its size in the U.S. that does not have 24-hour piped water.

More Pacific success stories

Iglesias was not the only Pacific island representative yesterday who gave a detailed description of progress made in environmental endeavors.

Michael Keyser, chief executive officer of the American Samoa Power Authority, described the removal of 60,000 metric tons of scrap metal and debris from American Samoa.

The scrap metal and debris had built up over 40 years, spanned seven acres, comprised 1.6 million cubic feet, and at some points had a vertical height of 20 feet, said Keyser.

Two years after ASPA contracted the project, the area is almost completely clear.

"We designed the project so that it could not fail," said Keyser, delineating the stringent contractual requirements that led to the project's success.

The project also provided American Samoa with 180 jobs and $300,000 in government revenue, Keyser said.

Another speaker, Elena Vaouli, U.S. Public Health Service Water Program manager at the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency, shared environmental gains through lab certifications in Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

"Six labs are now equipped to analyze drinking water," said Vaouli. Additionally, two are certified to analyze marine water samples.

Vaouli said she wants to increase the certification project's sustainability by involving the CNMI and Guam.

Renewable energy

Apart from improvements in its water system, the CNMI has also seen environmental progress through the use of renewable energy.

Robert Jordan, environmental chemist and office manager at Allied Pacific Consulting, described how a solar power system recently installed at Saipan Southern High School is providing power for the school's water pump and lighting to two classrooms.

A wind turbine has also been installed.

"It is a catalyst for energy curriculum development," said Jordan, who emphasized the importance of teaching youth to be environmentally conscious.

The SSHS renewable energy project is funded primarily by a settlement between the U.S. EPA and Concorde Garment, a subsidiary of Tan Holdings.

PIEC is sponsored by the U.S. EPA and the governments of the CNMI, Guam, and American Samoa. The theme of the conference is "Climate of Change: Energizing a Sustainable Future for Pacific Islands." PIEC opened with an energy summit on Monday and will conclude today.

FURLOUGHS

From Page 1

But House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) said yesterday the administration has yet to communicate to the Legislature any revision to the projected revenue for the remaining months of the fiscal year.

"It's incumbent upon the acting secretary of Finance, Mr. Bob Schrack, to follow Public Law 3-68, the Planning and Budgeting Act, specifically when changes to revenue estimate is needed, to notify the governor. The governor, in turn, should notify the Legislature through a special budget message proposing reductions in expenditure because of lower revenue projections," Yumul said in an interview.

A reduction in force or reduced work hours, according to Yumul, could be part of the governor's special message to the Legislature.

Belt-tightening

Inos, who has been tasked by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to oversee all government finances, said further belt-tightening is needed during the last quarter of FY 2009 starting July 1.

"On an annualized basis…we're looking at between $10 million and $12 million in over-expenditure or over-obligation," Inos said in an interview.

The administration, however, has yet to release expenditure figures to date, with only a few days left before the end of the third quarter on June 30.

"Expenditures and obligations might have to be controlled even tighter especially in the fourth quarter, but we will wait for the end of the quarter to see just how much we need to take down from the fourth quarter allotment," he said.

Before the passage of the FY 2009 budget law, Public Law 16-32, the government overspent between $3.5 million and $4 million in the first quarter between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, 2008, Inos said. But he said the projected deficit got smaller by approximately at least $1 million for the second and third quarters.

"We have essentially cut that down since the change in budget authority after the passage of [Public Law] 16-32, and secondly, as we close June, which would be the end of the third quarter, we should take a closer and harder look at the expenditure level for the succeeding three months to the end of the fiscal year," he said.

Furloughs

Inos said the contracts of most government contract employees will expire in July, and they may be let go unless money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act starts flowing in.

"It all depends on fund availability. I mean we'd like to keep them on the payroll but there's just no budget authority to be able to continue that and we can't do the same with civil service employees because they're protected. The only way to change the status of civil service status employees is through austerity program, which would require legislation, something we don't have that we've been asking for. So we are going to make the hard decision but we will see," Inos said.

The Fitial administration expects at least 18.2 percent of the $44.4 million in stimulus funds for the Public School System to go to government services funds, including for payroll so as to avert furloughs.

Last year, the government was able to cover all its operational expenses when, toward the end of FY 2008, it collected from the federal government millions in cover-over funds.

This year, the last-minute savior may be the ARRA funding, Yumul and Inos separately said.

"Just looking at the past year's history, they anticipated collection of cover-over funds and the budget ended up in the black. Now in 2009, is the ARRA money going to bail out the government?" Yumul said.

New budget

In March, the Legislature successfully overrode Fitial's veto of the budget bill. Since then, the administration has been calculating the impact of the $156.76 million in FY 2009 budget law and expects furloughs will need to take place.

But Yumul said yesterday government contract employees were able to keep their jobs. Many employees' contracts were supposed to end in April but these were extended for 90 days, expiring in July, he said.

The administration has been pushing for a budget measure that incorporates cost-cutting measures like unpaid holidays and austerity Fridays, as well as reprogramming authority for the governor. The Legislature included in the budget only one cost-cutting measure—reducing the employee contribution rate to the Retirement Fund from 18 percent to 11 percent.

A separate piece of legislation, introduced in February by Rep. Victor Hocog (Ind-Rota), would implement unpaid holidays and austerity Fridays but the House has yet to vote on it.

The Legislature has since been working on the administration's proposed FY 2010 budget of $162.82 million, of which only $150.5 million will be available to fund government operations and activities.

2-YEAR

From Page 1

teacher aides and assistants in the system.

PSS has been providing one-year contracts to teacher aides and teacher assistants for many years. Classroom teachers get two-year contracts.

Unlike classroom teachers, teacher aides and teacher assistants are paid a lower salary.

The Board of Education earlier approved a pay differential for teacher aides and teacher assistants to recognize their hard work and commitment to upgrade themselves.

Every year, PSS is faced with the difficulty of hiring qualified classroom teachers because they either lack the necessary requirements or there are not enough applicants for vacant positions.

By "investing" in these teacher aides, Sablan believes that PSS is going in the right direction to address the continuous shortage of classroom teachers.

Last school year, PSS only had about 500 teachers handling nearly 11,000 kids in all public schools on three islands.

Under the newly approved two-year contract, teacher aides are required to obtain the basic 1 and 2 certification requirements. Upon completing the two-year contract, they can begin acquiring the standard certification requirements in order to be classified as classroom teachers.

Once teacher aides acquired their degree, valid certifications, and pass the Praxis test, they will be included in the compensation plan for teachers, according to PSS chief.

A classroom teacher could get up to a maximum of $47,000 per annum, depending on one's qualifications.

Board of Education vice chair Herman T. Guerrero said yesterday that, although the decision was not really a board requirement, they believe it is only proper to recognize the important role of teacher aides by giving them a pay differential as an incentive.

'186 new contracts'

Sablan disclosed that PSS has so far approved and issued 186 two-year contracts for teacher aides and teacher assistants, and all will start working at the opening of classes.

Majority will be assigned to Head Start, special education, Chamorro/Carolinian heritage studies, and Troops to Teachers program.

PSS allows these employees to get their degrees and other certification requirements while serving the system. Once they acquire or complete certain requirements, a pay differential is provided.

"We're very pleased that many of our teacher aides have pursued the requirements and are now degree holders. Just for this summer, several teacher aides enrolled in summer institutes to meet the other requirements," Sablan said.

Saipan Tribune learned that majority of the 186 new contracts for teacher aides are with elementary schools, which have 135 teacher aides and teacher assistants, while 51 are in secondary schools.

FLOOD

From Page 1

since this paper carried the story about the available $600,000 in May, his office has been receiving a lot of letters.

Bellas' office has already received between 200 to 250 letters, mostly from Filipinos, Chinese and Bangladeshis.

Bellas emphasized that the money will only be disbursed to those with emergency needs and not to make life comfortable and luxurious. At the same time, the only ones eligible to get a share of the money are former garment workers who are currently lawfully staying in the CNMI.

He disclosed that a week ago, the trust fund gave $5,000 to a Filipino garment worker who had to be taken to the Philippines for a serious medical condition.

Bellas said it was the Philippine Consulate General that approached the trust fund about the former garment worker's situation.

He said many of the letter senders were not eligible.

"I even heard a guy out there charging $20. He is charging the Chinese $20 bucks to put together the application for the money. And it is true because we are getting the same form. Somebody is doing a side business," Bellas said.

The former Garment Oversight Board, then chaired by Bellas, established the trust fund. The board was set up pursuant to the $20 million settlement agreement in the class action against the garment industry.

The trust fund's other members are also former GOB members—former Washington State Supreme Court chief justice Richard Guy and former California Supreme Court justice Cruz Reynoso.

The $600,000 is leftover money from the GOB that didn't get distributed to former garment workers who were eligible to avail of the funds in the settlement of the class action against the garment factories.

The money was originally distributed to the workers, but the checks came back or were not cashed. The money was pooled together and became the trust fund.

Bellas said the trust fund is still accepting applications to avail of the funding from garment workers until Aug. 15, 2009.

Applicants need to send their applications either in Chinese or English to GWTF P.O. Box 505943 Saipan, MP 96950.

The remaining money from the $600,000 will then be donated to a charity.

Voters reach nearly 14K; GOP primary expects high turnout

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

As of this month, the Commonwealth Election Commission has registered nearly 14,000 voters for the general election in November.

A total of 3,761 have registered in District 1, with San Vicente having the biggest number so far at 2,113. Koblerville area has 935,while San Antonio has 713 as of last week.

District 3 comes next with the biggest number of voters, with Garapan posting 2,131 voters and Oleai with 736.

Kagman, which belongs to District 5, marked a significant increase in its number of voters, with 2,004 as of June 10.

Four villages in District 4 posted total registrants of 1,525: Tanapag, 573; San Roque, 501; Capital Hill, 374; and Northern Islands, 77.

On Tinian, the Election Commission reported 1,243 registrants so far while Rota has 1,402 voters.

Chalan Kanoa and Susupe areas, which comprise District 2, has 1,046 voters so far.

More than three months to the registration deadline on Sept. 18, the commission expects a sizeable increase in the number of registered voters in the next few months, to exceed 15,000.

Primary polls

This Saturday, June 27, the local Republican Party will conduct an open primary for the teams of Juan Babauta-Galvin Deleon Guerrero and Heinz Hofschneider-Arnold Palacios, who are both seeking the party's endorsement for the general election.

Tom Pangelinan, chairman of the committee to elect Heinz-Arnold, said yesterday they're expecting a good turnout. However, he admitted that GOP members would make up most of the votes.

"The golden rule of this primary is the most votes get it…and we're expecting a good turnout," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Heinz-Arnold team held last night its final campaign for the primary at its headquarters.

Asked about the team's preparations, Pangelinan said their staff and supporters are all set to pick up voters who need transportation in going to their respective polling places.

He said they expect four election districts to give the Heinz-Arnold team a landslide victory—districts 1, 2, 3, and 5.

The local GOP conducted its last primary between Juan Babauta and Tom Villagomez some eight years ago.

Pangelinan is optimistic that this year's primary will exceed the turnout in past elections.

For the gubernatorial team of Juan-Galvin, committee chairman Ed Guerrero is confident that his candidates will emerge victorious.

"We are all set…and we're working very closely with the GOP central committee and the other camp to ensure that we will have a smooth primary election this week," Guerrero said.

As in the past, Guerrero said they expect 70 to 80 percent of total registered voters to participate in the GOP activity.

"We're very hopeful that more people would exercise their voting rights," he said, adding that an estimated 10,000 to 13,000 voters usually show up during primary polls.

Yesterday, the Juan-Galvin team was holding its last campaign on Rota after an assembly it held on Tinian last week. The team's major campaign gathering was held on June 13 on Saipan.

Immediate deportation for alien worker found driving illegal taxi

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman ordered the Division of Immigration yesterday to immediately deport an overstaying alien worker who was reportedly found operating an illegal taxicab.

Wiseman gave the order after finding that Zhiquiang Jing's passport, which was in the court's possession, is still valid.

Wiseman remanded the 45-year-old Jing back to the custody of the Attorney General's Investigative Unit for preparation to leave the CNMI.

Jing, a Chinese national, appeared at the hearing with an interpreter but no lawyer. Assistant attorney general Kathleen Busenkell appeared for the government.

Wiseman first ordered Jing's deportation in August 2008. Jing posted a $1,000 cash bail for his temporary release while Immigration was processing his deportation papers.

When Jing failed to call the Immigration office as required, Immigration agents looked for him and arrested him.

Jing was brought to court Tuesday afternoon. In that hearing, Wiseman continued the hearing to yesterday to check whether Jing's passport was still valid.

In Tuesday's hearing, Jing, through an interpreter, told the court that he indeed called Immigration and that he is willing to go back to China if he gets his unpaid wages as awarded by Labor.

In his report filed in April 2008, Immigration investigator John Peter stated that on April 22, 2008, Jing was arrested in Garapan by the Department of Public Safety during an operation against illegal taxi drivers.

Peter said Jing was seen driving a vehicle that were picking up and dropping off passengers.

Labor records show that Jing's nonresident entry permit expired on July 22, 2005, and he has no pending Labor case.

Records showed that Jing used to work as a warehouse worker for Javili's Corp. and U.S. CNMI Development Corp.

During his arrest in April 2008 Jing was already overstaying for over two years and seven months. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Man who hit girlfriend with bench gets 6-month sentence

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona has sentenced to six months in prison a man who was accused of hitting his girlfriend with a wooden bench even as she was holding their two-week-old baby in one arm.

Manglona sentenced Cleofin Nesis Masao to one year in prison, all suspended except for six months.

Manglona

Following a plea agreement, Manglona gave Masao credit for time already served from the date of his arrest on Jan. 7, 2009.

After serving the prison term, Masao will be placed on three years of supervised probation. He was ordered to pay a $300 fine and $25 court assessment fee.

Manglona also barred Masao from possessing or consuming any alcoholic beverages during his probationary period.

The judge ordered Masao to appear in court on Aug. 19, 2009, for a review hearing to determine whether he has complied with the terms and conditions of his suspended sentence.

"Defendant's failure to appear will result in the issuance of a bench warrant," Manglona stressed.

Masao and his counsel, assistant public defender Richard Miller, signed a plea agreement with the CNMI government. The defendant pleaded guilty to assault and battery involving domestic violence.

According to a police report, the victim suffered injuries and was subsequently placed in the Battered Women's Shelter for safety.

The victim told police that on the evening of Jan. 7, 2009 a drunk Masao arrived home in San Vicente and started beating her.

The defendant slapped and punched the girlfriend in the face. He also hit her with a wooden bench while she was holding their baby.

Masao then drove off with the baby. He was later arrested. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LPP MORTGAGE, LTD., Plaintiff, -v- **ESTATE OF JOAQUIN G. ADRIANO, and MARIAN S. ADRIANO (aka MARIAN P. SABLAN),** Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0385** **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on June 15, 2009, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants the Estate of Joaquin G. Adriano and Marian S. Adriano (aka Marian P. Sablan) in and to the following real properties located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

LOT NO. 005 I 360, containing an area of 999 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 005 I 07 dated September 30, 1983.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on July 16, 2009, at the hour of 3:30 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.
a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.
c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.
a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.
b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.
c. Court Approval. Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 16th day of June, 2009:

/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer

RP consul general bids NMI farewell

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Consul General Wildredo DL. Maximo ended his tour of duty in the CNMI yesterday, leaving the island after six years as the Philippines' highest diplomatic official on the islands.

Maximo left Saipan at 1:30pm yesterday and was expected to arrive in Manila at about 7pm last night via Guam.

Before going to the airport late in the morning yesterday, he spent a couple of hours bidding goodbye to his consular staff.

Consul Belinda Ante is the acting consul general until Maximo's replacement, Medardo Macaraig, comes in. Macaraig is set to arrive on Saipan on July 25.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in a statement issued yesterday, said: "During his years of service in the CNMI, [Maximo] did much to foster a strong sense of friendship, community, and good relations between the people of the Philippines and the people of the CNMI. …Maximo respected our local culture and worked well with our Labor Department and other local government agencies to assist Filipino nationals working in the CNMI. I appreciate Maximo's recognition of our efforts to assist guest workers from the Philippines. We will miss [him]. Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos and I wish him well on his next assignment."

Maximo

Maximo will return to home base and is expected to be given a desk assignment at the Department of Foreign Affairs' Privileges and Immunities Division in Manila.

Maximo, who has been with the foreign service for 31 years, was previously posted in Venezuela, Los Angeles, Spain, and India before coming to Saipan in 2003.

Leaders of Filipino organizations in the CNMI held a farewell dinner for Maximo Tuesday night at the Saipan Grand Hotel, where they exchanged plaques of appreciation and gifts.

Represented at the farewell party were groups under the United Filipino Organizations that include the Saipan Filipino Skilled Workers, Mariana Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants, Bayani, CNMI Power, Samahang Ilokano and Pangasinense, Marianas Association of Filipino Women and Vizminda.

Tan Holdings management and employees also hosted a farewell party for Maximo last Saturday night at the house of corporation president Jerry Tan.

Maximo cited the successful conduct of absentee voting in the CNMI in 2004 and 2007 are his most memorable moments here.

He considers the downturn of the local economy the lowest point for Filipinos living here. "Although they are not that many, I have seen pockets of poverty among some of our Filipinos here. They live in miserable conditions. They just raise vegetables in exchange for money or whatever that would make both ends meet," he said.

Maximo said Filipinos must always observe the laws of the host government and should always go to the consulate for assistance if they are in trouble.

He also urged the CNMI government for "more understanding to the aspirations of the Filipino community and for those who are asking for improved status."

After all, he said, it is a basic right of every human being to seek a better living condition, so long as it also respects the culture and sentiment of the indigenous community.

Guerrero to seek a third term at BOE

Board of Education vice chair Herman T. Guerrero confirmed yesterday that he will seek re-election this November with fellow board member Lucy Blanco-Maratita from Tinian.

Guerrero is running for Saipan's seat on the Education Board and will be vying for his third term in office.

Both the terms of incumbent chair Blanco-Maratita and vice chair Guerrero are set to expire this year.

Guerrero has been with the board for two four-year terms and was elected the board's chairman in 2000 prior to becoming its vice chair.

Yesterday, he said he wants to work on improving PSS when the stimulus funds—amounting to about $44 million—comes in.

"That's a very substantial amount that PSS can use for its priority needs. Whatever's the share of the system, I want to make sure that our goals and objectives are still in line with how we're going to use it," he said.

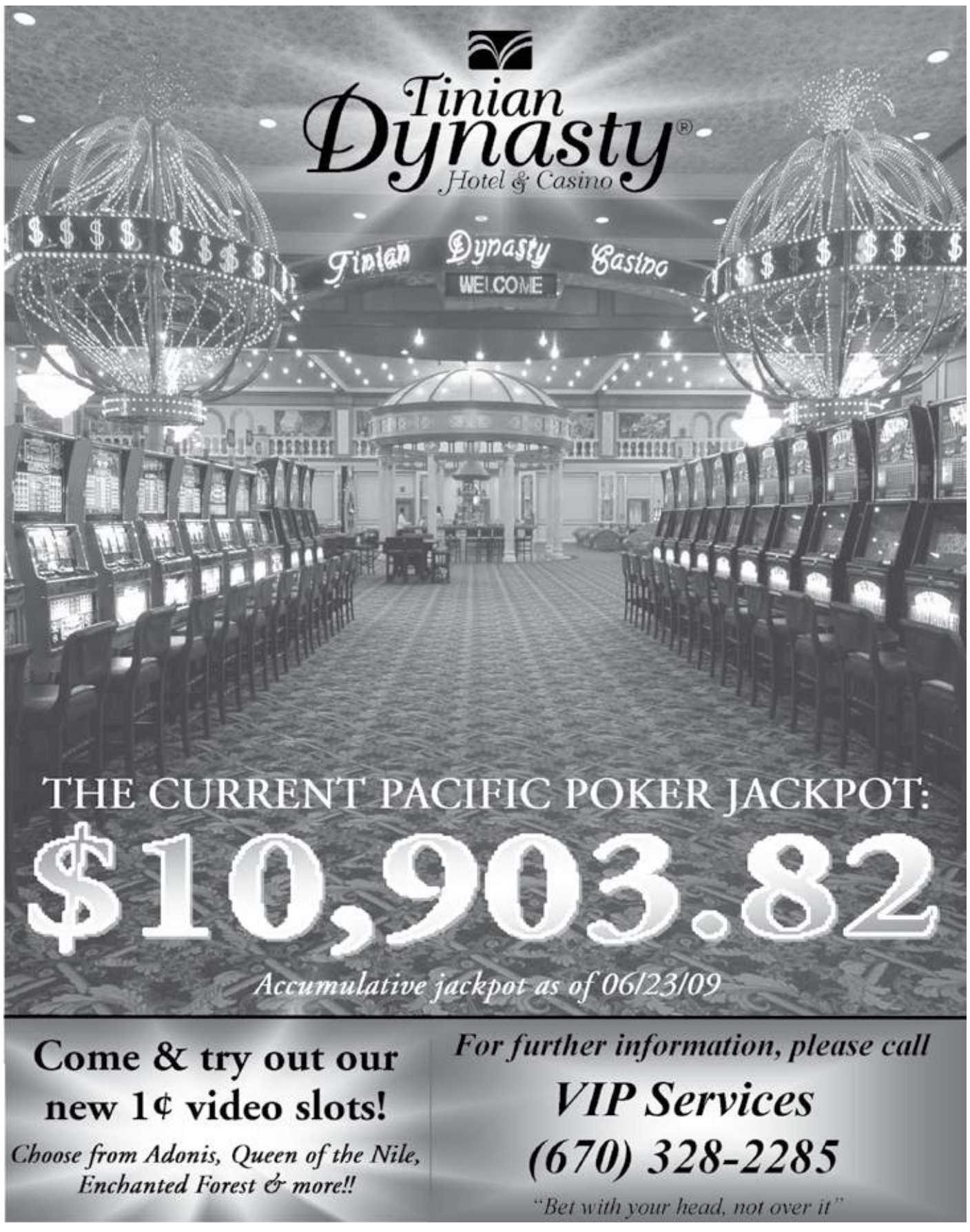
Guerrero said he wants to see PSS and the schools work on a paperless system. He intends to raise with the board the idea of revisiting procurement rules and regulations to see how it could save PSS from too much paperwork.

"We need to update, strengthen, and make it more efficient for our schools. I would like to reduce the amount of paperwork by enhancing an electronic way of operation," he said, adding that it take too much time and effort when schools submit procurement papers to the central system.

The vice chairman said going the paperless route could also bring substantial savings to the system.

Other priority areas he wants to focus on during his third term include the direction of the federal government on the No Child Left Behind Act, which is coming up for reauthorization, and the effectiveness of summer institutes and professional development to the growth of PSS.

The board is a five-member body composed of three from Saipan and one each from Rota and Tinian. Other elected members include Marylou S. Ada and Galvin Deleon Guerrero for Saipan, and Rota board member Tanya King. ***(Moneth Deposa)***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Woman in fake money case gets 3-year probation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court imposed yesterday a three-year probation sentence on a woman who, along with two men, was involved in the passing of counterfeit bills to some stores on Saipan.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson also ordered Kisha Lyn Masga King to perform 100 hours of community service and pay restitutions of $100 to Tapo Shopping and $50 to Fashion Avenue.

Munson ordered King to pay a $400 special assessment fee and prohibited her from excessive use of alcohol during the probationary period.

The judge waived imposing a fine since the court has determined that the defendant does not have the ability to pay a fine.

Last February, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Secret Service, with the help of local police, busted King, Nestor Taitano and Lucas Taitano Manglona for circulating fake money.

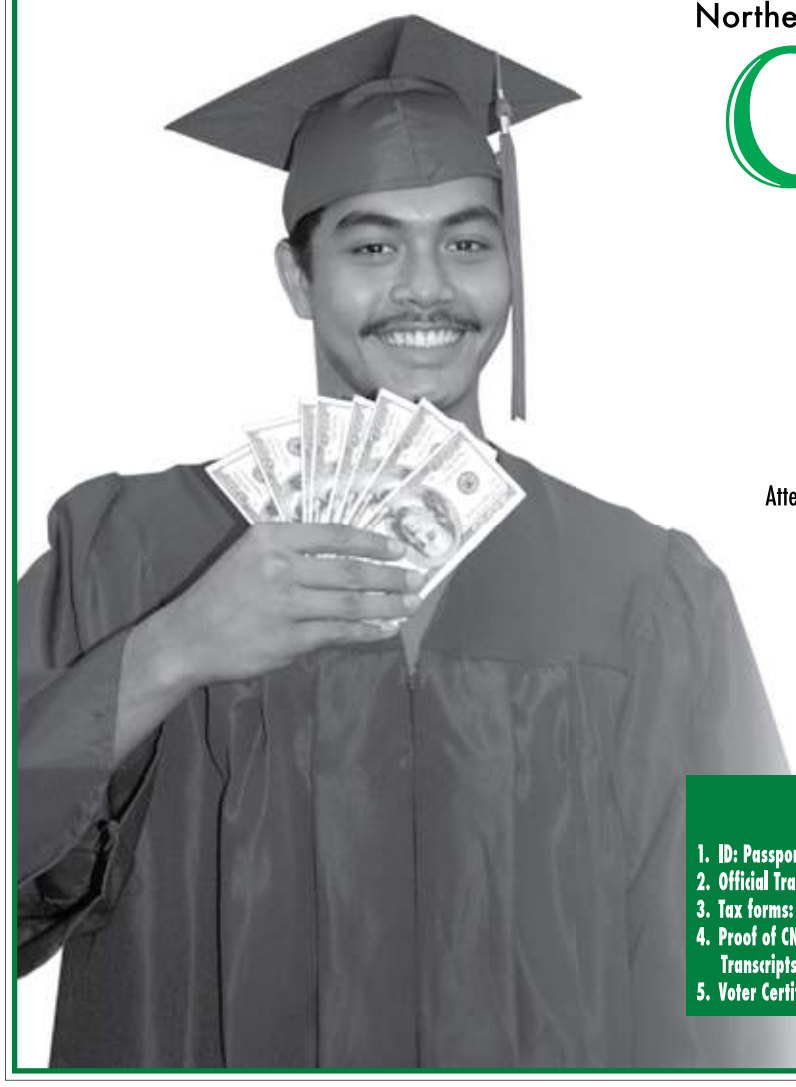
In April, King signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government. She pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to utter counterfeit obligations and securities, and three counts of passing counterfeit obligations.

According to the plea agreement, on Jan. 12, 2009, King, in connivance with Taitano, made a purchase at Tapo Fashion with a $50 bill that she knew to be counterfeit.

Their agreement was that Taitano would give King the fake $50 bill and she would keep the item she purchased and return the change from the purchase to Taitano.

That same day, King also made a purchase at Fashion Avenue with a fake $50 bill, under the same arrangement with Taitano. King also bought gasoline at Koblerville Shell Station using a fake $50 bill.

Taitano and Manglona had also pleaded guilty and are awaiting their sentencing.



Northern Marianas College and the College Access Challenge Project

Cash for College

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Attend the FREE Northern Marianas College's Cash for College Workshop and receive personal assistance in completing forms for free application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Saipan Higher Education Financial Aid (SHEFA),CNMI Scholarship, and other financial aid.

Thursday, June 25, 2009, Multi-Purpose Center
1st Session: 9am - 11am • 2nd Session: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Attending the free workshop also qualifies you for a waiver of NMC's application fee and placement test fees for the Fall 2009 semester (a savings of up to $75!)

Although not required for entry into the workshop, please bring in the following documents to help you complete the scholarship forms at the workshop:
1. ID: Passport, Birth Certificate, or Green Card
2. Official Transcript from high school (at least three official copies)
3. Tax forms: Your OR your parents' signed 2008 1040 form (2008 W-2 statements if you and/or your parents did not or will not file taxes)
4. Proof of CNMI residency for 2007 and 2008 (For Example, CNMI 1040 tax form, Employment Verification from your employer, Official Transcripts, Voter's Certification, etc.)
5. Voter Certification (to show you voted in last election – Contact Election Commission for more information) – SHEFA Requirement

This ad is paid for by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, College Access Challenge Project

heinzarnold2009.com
Manhoben

We humbly ask all voters (Republican, Democrat, Independent and Covenant too) to VOTE in the GOP Open Primary this Saturday, June 27, 2009.

The most important thing to remember is that when you cast a VOTE, you are helping steer the CNMI in a positive direction towards a HAppier Place.

Be a part of the Solution. If you truly want to see Real Changes, then help us bring forth the Change!

Make a difference, participate in this primary election. Many have decided to VOTE in the Primary, now it's up to YOU! We hope you will decide to VOTE in the Primary too.

We ask you to **VOTE** for

Heinz Sablan Hofschneider for Governor
and
Arnold Indalecio Palacios for Lt. Governor

MANHOBEN FOR HEINZ & ARNOLD

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www.heinzarnold2009.com

CPA sets contingency plan for FY10

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With less than five months before the new fiscal year, the Commonwealth Ports Authority is now working on developing a contingency plan to prepare the airport and seaport from a possible revenue shortfall in FY 2010.

CPA executive director Efrain F. Camacho confirmed that, although employees are assured that their salary will not be reduced at this time, the situation could change when the new fiscal year starts in October.

"We're in the process of evaluating all our personnel and operations…to come up with a contingency plan that would be workable for both the employees and the management," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Based on his conversation with airport and seaport operators in other states and Pacific islands, Camacho said there is a general consensus that money management needs to be tightened due to the ongoing global recession.

"It was disclosed in a recent conference that most airport and seaport operators in the states and in the Pacific are working on reduced hours and even cuts in the salary of employees and officials just to save the operation next fiscal year," Camacho said.

He believes the CPA management needs to prepare early for the same scenario.

Camacho said the contingency plan, still in the planning stages, may cover both personnel and operation, depending on the airport's priority needs.

Just in case cuts need to be implemented, Camacho said the management may first look at the two other islands' operations—Rota and Tinian.

"There's no final plan yet…but we need to assess and evaluate first the operations of two other airports and seaports on Rota and Tinian," Camacho said.

CPA has just emerged from an emergency declaration following the actions taken by the board and the management to address the problems on its bond indenture agreement.

For several months, the agency has been implementing internal austerity measures to save on cost, Camacho said.

CPA is nearing full recovery and compliance with both its seaport and airport bond indenture agreements.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial placed CPA in a state of emergency in May 2008 after it was found in default of its seaport bond indenture agreement.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2371 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

AMENDED
OMB and CIP Office Renovations
ITB09-GOV-107

The previously advertised notice, Invitation To Bids ("ITB") for the **"OMB and CIP Office Renovations"** has been amended. The specific amendment is to include five (5) Split Type Air-conditioners. Below are the specifications:

1. Remove existing air conditioning units.
2. Install "New" air conditioning units at specified general location.
   - Two (2) 12,000 BTU, 220V
   - Three (3) 24,000 BTU, 220V

All other elements of the ITB remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Office of Capital Improvement 1356 Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Friday, except holidays) or by contacting Mr. Carl Castro, Project Coordinator at 664-2371 or by fax at 664-2408. The deadline for questions is due no later than Friday, June 26, 2009 at 11:30am.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Friday, June 26, 2009 beginning at 10:00 AM at the MPLT Conference Room, Suite #107, Morgen Building; Saipan, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II CONSULTANT'S REPORTS
- Legal Counsel Reports
- Investment Consultant Reports
- Loan Administrator Reports
  - o Loan Modifications
- Board Consultant Reports
  - o Contingent Home Loans - Delinquency Status

III COMMITTEE REPORTS
- Administrative
- Investments
  - o Outgoing Correspondences
  - o Proposed Asset Allocation Study
- Governmental Relations

IV OLD BUSINESS
- By-laws Review & Amendments
- Office Space

V NEW BUSINESS
- Review of Committees Formation
- Trustees & Administrators Institute Report
- SLI 16-12

VI EXECUTIVE SESSION
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.
- JEU Estate

VII MISCELLANEOUS
VIII ADJOURNMENT

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Vianney B. Hocog
Chairman, Board of Trustees

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

Head Start Policy Council
Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a meeting on July 2, 2009 (Thursday) from 10:30am – 2:30pm at Napu Room, Pacific Islands Club, San Antonio Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Adoption of Minutes
   a. May 20, 2009-Regular Meeting
   b. June 18, 2009-Special Meeting

II. Public Comments
III. Monthly Reports
1. Director
2. Managers
3. Finance
4. Council Standing Committees
   a. Personnel
   b. Education
   c. Executive
   d. Finance
   e. Public Relations

IV. Old Business
V. New Business
1. Action Item
   a. Approval of the Early Head Start Expansion Grant

VI. Executive Session
VII. Next Meeting
VIII. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. Pursuant to our Policy 8000, Public Comments are limited to 15 minutes; therefore comments are limited to 3 minutes each.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcomed to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Quitugua at 664-3751.

/s/ Mr. Vinnie Sablan
Chairperson

ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96951

PURSUANT TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, DIEGO M. SONGAO HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT THE ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING FOR FRIDAY, 26, JUNE 2009.

DATE: **Friday, 26 June 2009**

TIME: **2:30 PM**

LOCATION: **Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Annex Building**
Rota Casino Gaming Commission's Office
Tatachog, Rota, MP 96951

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Adoption of Agenda
IV. Adoption of Minutes
V. Chairman's Report
VI. Old Business
- Funding Status

VII. New Business
- Staffing Needs

VIII. Miscellaneous
IX. Adjournment

*At anytime during the meeting, the Commission may move to Executive Session.

/s/ Diego M. Songao **June 23, 2009**
Chairman

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JUNE 25, 1999

House okays $60 million bond float
The House of Representatives yesterday set in motion an ambitious plan by the government to float some $60 million worth of bonds which proceeds will be used to match remaining federal construction grants under the Capital Improvement Projects. House Bill 11-435 passed the House during its day-long session, allowing the Commonwealth Development Authority to enter into an interim financing of up to $30 million from any banking institution, the first step toward the proposed bond flotation.

Bill on local bidder first pushed again
A controversial bill giving preference to local bidders on government contracts that was earlier vetoed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio now heads back again to his office after the House of Representatives passed the measure yesterday. Lawmakers underscored its multiplier effect on the local economy, saying the government stands to gain from taxes and other revenues being collected from locally-based contractors as opposed to foreign construction firms. While business leaders view the measure as protectionist, Senate Bill 11-140 seeks changes in the bidding regulations on government contracts to favor local firms over their foreign competitor, in a move to keep public money within the island.

JUNE 25, 2001

Time running out for runoff polls proposal
Time is running out for a proposal to hold a run-off election in case the elected governor and Washington representative failed to garner 50 percent plus one vote, with only 133 days left before the November polls. A key legislative leader admitted Friday that time constraints make it impossible to pass legislation that would institute the run-off election process, in the absence of majority vote for the elected governor and the Washington representative. Senate President Paul A. Manglona said the Legislature will not be able to carefully study the proposal if it is meant to be carried out for this year's election, even if it will ensure better election procedures for the Commonwealth.

Poachers steal turtle eggs in Managaha
The Division of Fish and Wildlife on Friday disclosed that turtle eggs laid in Managaha Island have either been destroyed or stolen by poachers. "A real fisher knows that between April to August each year, sea turtles come up to lay their eggs here on some of our beaches," said a media statement from the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife. DFW reported that a mature turtle recently crawled up to Managaha to lay eggs, following years that the sea creature did not visit the island. "It was so frustrating to find that the turtle eggs have been disturbed, or to say it bluntly, the eggs have been stolen by poachers."

JUNE 25, 2002

US secures Saipan airport safety
The Saipan International Airport has been included in the first batch of 23 air transport facilities across the United States whose security programs will be placed under federal control. An assessment team from the U.S. Department of Transportation arrived on Saipan over the weekend to conduct an on-site inspection of both the Saipan International Airport and the West Tinian International Airport. Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas confirmed yesterday that the Transportation Security Administration has identified Saipan as one of the first 23 out of 429 airports across the U.S. that will be placed under the federal security program, which includes site survey, checkpoint configuration and deployment of federal screening workforce.

'We asked for extension, not opposition'
Contrary to the position that got submitted to the Federal Communications Commission, the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication was actually asking the commission to extend the deadline for the submission of comments on the sale of Verizon to the Pacific Telecom consortium. Committee member Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero pointed this out, even as he questioned the authenticity of a House of Representative's communication to the FCC, which was nearly identical to the position paper that the PUTC committee had submitted to the commission.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Being a quiet ally

When weighing a response to an international crisis, a U.S. president defines American interests, examines the political landscape and selects from a menu of generally imperfect options ranging from war to prudent inaction. In the case of Iran, President Obama has rightly determined that it is in the U.S. interest to speak up for the opposition forces' fundamental rights to assembly and free speech, but that he otherwise must refrain from bluster or bullying that would provide a justification for more repression.

In weak states, the United States can back popular uprisings and use its formidable influence to usher strongmen out of power, as it did with Ferdinand Marcos and Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier in the Philippines and Haiti, respectively, in the 1980s. An alternative example is Poland, where U.S. moral support for the Solidarity movement helped tip the balance against a teetering pro-Soviet regime during the Cold War. Yet Iran is neither a U.S. client state nor, apparently, on the verge of collapse.

A fraught U.S.-Iranian history argues against more direct intervention, starting with the U.S. role in overthrowing elected Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh in 1953, and including U.S. support for the shah over the revolutionary forces that brought the Islamic government to power in 1979. Add in the subsequent hostage crisis, plus decades of mutual hostility over regional conflicts and nuclear weapons, and it becomes clear why more forceful action from Obama could backfire. He must continue to protest the bloodshed, but he cannot hand Iranian hard-liners a stick with which to beat the opposition.

There is a lesson in the 1956 uprising against Hungary's Soviet-backed government, when Radio Free Europe's Hungarian-language programs broadcast news of the rebellion and egged on the revolutionaries, leading many to believe that NATO or the United Nations would support them. The Soviets suppressed the revolution, and no Western troops arrived.

More violence can be expected in Iran and, with it, increased U.S. political pressure on Obama to "do something." But it is important to remember that Iran's opposition leaders are not asking for U.S. help, and many Iranians fighting for their freedoms are not necessarily pro-American.

Unlike the student movement in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, Iran's pro-democracy protests appear to be broad-based, including urban middle-class men and women and parts of the revolutionary elite. And they appear ready to try new tactics, such as strikes. They are pursuing their own destiny -- and can best do it with the moral support but not the meddling of the U.S.

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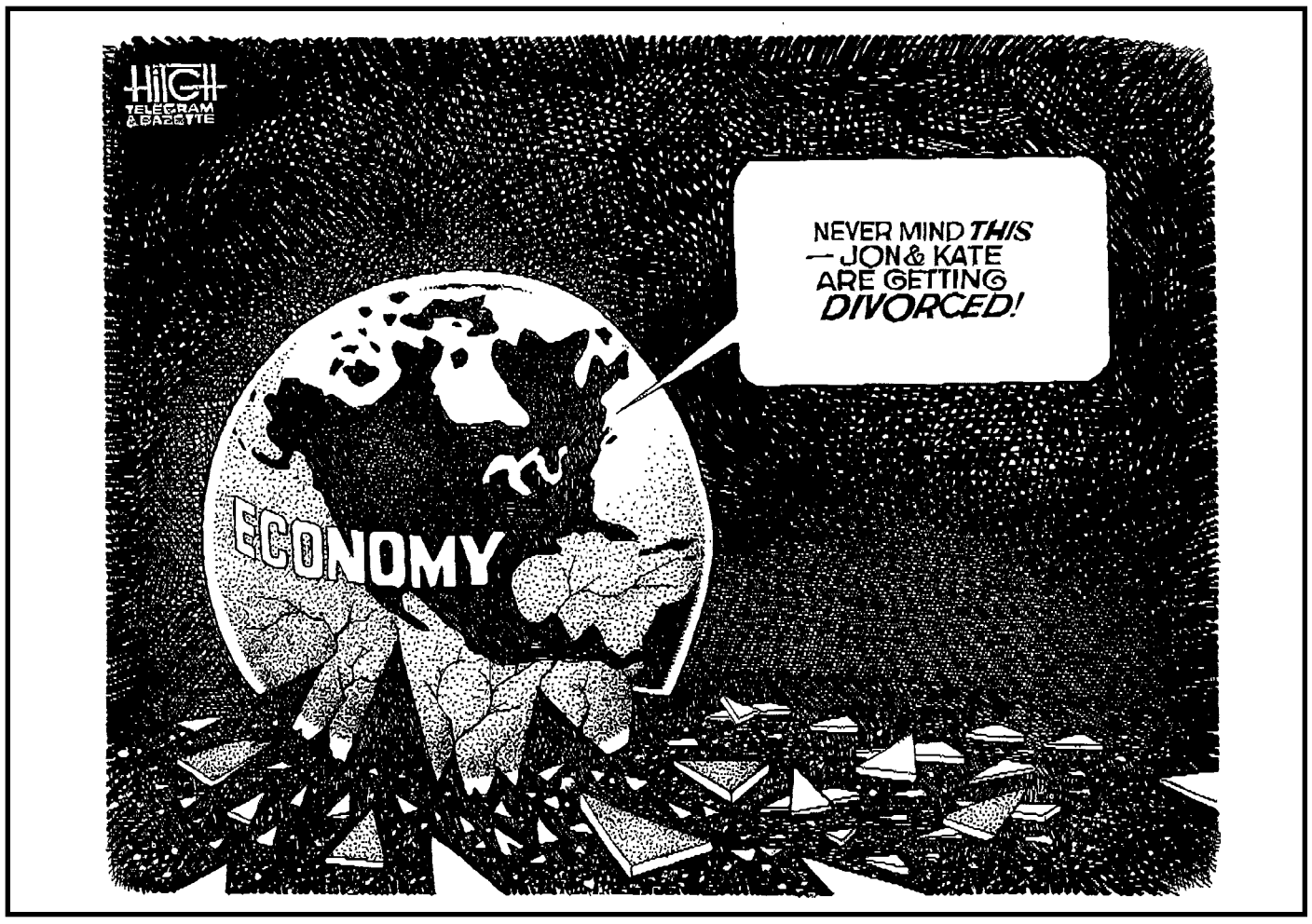

Pandemic reality check: What can be done—and what can't—to protect against H1N1 virus

By JOHN M. BARRY
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

This month, the World Health Organization finally declared that the new H1N1 virus has become pandemic. This week it reported a big jump in cases and fatalities since Friday. How many people this virus will sicken and kill depends, ultimately, on three things: the virus itself; the impact of what are known as "non-pharmaceutical interventions," or NPIs; and the availability and effectiveness of a vaccine.

The virus will be the most important factor. Influenza is one of the fastest-mutating organisms in existence, which makes it unpredictable, and a virus newly infecting the human population is likely to be even more unpredictable as it adapts to a new environment. There have been four pandemics that we know about in some detail: 1889-92, 1918-20, 1957-60 and 1968-70. All four followed similar patterns: initial sporadic activity with local instances of high attack rates—just as H1N1 has behaved so far—followed four to eight months later by waves of widespread illness with 20 to 40 percent of the population sickened. (In a normal influenza season about 10 percent of the population gets sick.) Subsequent waves followed as well.

In all four pandemics, lethality changed from wave to wave—sometimes increasing, sometimes decreasing. It's impossible to know what will happen this time, but in 1999 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention modeled a moderate pandemic in the United States, including a vaccine in its calculations, and concluded that the death toll would probably be 89,000 to 207,000. If the virulence of this virus does not significantly increase—and right now there is no reason to think it will—something close to the lower number looks probable.

What could help bring about such a best case? Again, the virus is the most important factor, and we have no control over it. But we do have non-pharmaceutical interventions and the possibility of a vaccine. Such interventions would come into play primarily in a moderate or severe pandemic. For a mild one, we may not need to take steps beyond washing hands, exercising "cough etiquette" and keeping the sick at home. But if the virus increases its virulence, other measures, such as closing schools, urging people to telecommute and even banning public meetings, could mitigate the impact.

However, the usefulness of non-pharmaceutical interventions is limited, and even if they work, their chief impact will be to flatten the pandemic's peak and stretch out the duration of a wave of illness to make it easier to handle. Consider: Those telecommuting are likely to run into Internet capacity problems, while the impact of closing schools—aside from the burden that creates on working parents and their employers, or on children who get good meals only at school—depends on how much kids congregate while out of school. And sustaining compliance will be both important and difficult. Scholars Bradley Condon and Tapen Sinha found that in Mexico City this spring, when the government advised wearing masks on public transportation, compliance peaked at 65 percent three days later—but declined to 26 percent only five days after that. This decline came even as the government was taking the extreme measure of closing all nonessential services and businesses. Such behavior does not portend well for sustained compliance with any measure.

The most important human intervention is, of course, a vaccine. There are many unknowns: Because influenza mutates so rapidly, a new vaccine has to be made each year just for seasonal flu. Vaccines for most diseases approach 100 percent effectiveness, but a good flu vaccine is 70 percent effective; a great one is 90 percent effective. The vaccine in the 2007-08 flu season was only 44 percent effective. Hitting the "good" mark for a new virus that may be changing even more rapidly than seasonal flu will be difficult.

Supply is another problem. In a best case, enough vaccine for the entire U.S. population could be available by October as long as an adjuvant is used to simultaneously stimulate the immune system, which lessens the need for antigen from the virus itself. However, if the virus used to make vaccine grows slowly, or if a dose requires more antigen than seasonal flu, or if two doses are required to provide protection, producing that much vaccine could easily stretch deep into 2010. In addition, only about 30 percent of the supply will be made in the United States. The more virulent the virus, the more likely it is that foreign governments will refuse to allow export of the vaccine until their own populations are fully protected.

Meanwhile, the emergence of the H1N1 virus in no way lessens the threat from H5N1, more commonly known as bird flu. And the same day the World Health Organization declared H1N1 a pandemic, Egypt announced 25 new human cases of H5N1—the largest number yet identified in a single day.

The bottom line? Little can be done in the short term beyond exerting diplomatic pressure to guarantee that foreign governments allow manufacturers to honor contracts to export vaccine. In the medium term, sustained investment in vaccine production technologies—especially recombinant ones—could make it possible to produce massive amounts of vaccine in a few weeks. In the long term, we need a vaccine that works against all influenza viruses. Enough work has been done to suggest that this Holy Grail is achievable. Had influenza been taken seriously for the past 30 years, we would probably have one by now. No matter what happens over the next year or two, that's one history lesson we need to learn.

John M. Barry is a distinguished scholar at the Center for Bioenvironmental Research at Tulane and Xavier Universities and the author of The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History.

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What are your biggest threats?

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC. They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

We recently sent an e-mail to over 100 CNMI business owners and managers to discover the biggest threats and frustrations they are dealing with in a down economy. Five responded, which isn't enough to get a grasp on the situation so we spent another 20 hours calling and personally meeting with 16 more businesses, then compiling the responses to these three questions:

1. What do you feel are your biggest external threats facing your business to keep it from growing?

2. What are your three greatest internal business frustrations or obstacles—other than the external threats—that if you were able to resolve, would allow your business to grow and prosper?

3. Do you have a written plan or strategy that you and your staff are successfully following to resolve any or all of the frustrations you mentioned, within the next 6-12 months?

The respondents represented companies from a variety of industries. They shared 31 different threats and frustrations that may be similar to the ones you're experiencing. Below are the answers to the first question above and some of the general comments. Before you read through them, think of your biggest threats and how they keep you from growing your business, then compare them with the answers below.

Questions #1: What do you feel are your biggest external threats facing your business to keep it from growing?

Economy (45 percent): The threat mentioned more than any other is the "economy." This is a catchall term that includes many factors that contribute to slower sales. Customers are hanging on to their money and not spending as much, especially on nonessential products and services.

Competitors (30 percent): A lot of competitors are lowering their prices to attract more sales, but profits are shrinking which exacerbates the business owner's situation. Customers are buying cheaper products over the Internet and they don't have to pay taxes. Businesses that are legal and pay taxes are forced to compete with companies that do not follow the "rules." One manager felt that the competition does not care about earning a gross profit.

Local and federal interference and mandates (25 percent): Several felt the laws and regulations are strangling small businesses, especially labor laws and fees. Several business owners expressed their frustration about the government's apparent lack of concern, and the need to be more business friendly.

Uncertain future (25 percent): The state of the economy, wishy-washy government laws, the impact of federalization on tourism and labor, and people leaving the island make it difficult to predict the future for CNMI businesses. Non-U.S. customers are unwilling to commit to long-term contracts. This all creates uncertainty among business owners and their employees.

Zoning regulations (15 percent): The restrictions and slow response from zoning have made it difficult for businesses to get permits and approval for signs. The government created zoning regulations that are anti-business.

Federalization of immigration and labor (10 percent): Those businesses that rely on tourist are very concerned about how this will impact their revenue. The drop in Russian and Chinese tourists will adversely affect many businesses, and hurt the overall economy. Other businesses are concerned that key contract workers who have specialized skills will be forced to leave, and it would be difficult to replace them with local employees who lack those skills.

Shrinking market (10 percent): With all the uncertainty and difficulty finding a job, people are leaving the island, which means there are fewer customers.

Not enough tourists or travelers (10 percent): Even without the threat of federalization, tourism has dropped significantly, so less money is being spent at businesses.

Lack of government reality that tourism is THE industry that pays their wages (5 percent): One business owner expressed frustration about the lack of government concern and understanding that tourism is the primary industry that is keeping the economy afloat. He suggested a "Wake Up CNMI—Tourism" campaign to help everyone focus on this essential industry.

Getting federal funds promptly (5 percent): There is federal funding, but it is coming too slow or the government is not taking full advantage of what's available.

Lack of Japanese doing business in the CNMI (5 percent): Many Japanese businesspeople have left the CNMI and less Japanese tourists and investors have hurt the overall economy.

You can see that many of these threats are interrelated. Many of them contribute to what we call "the economy" and the result is uncertainty and fear among business owners, employees, customers, and the population in general. Running away to "greener pastures" is not always the solution because other places are experiencing their own challenges.

Next week, we'll consider 21 factors that businesses feel they have some control over, but are obstacles and frustrations that keep them from growing.

Summer?

By STEPHEN B. SMITH
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Stephen B. Smith is the Accreditation, Language Arts, and National Forensic League coordinator for the Public School System Central Office. E-mail him at saipansmith1940@yahoo.com.

Well, it's underway, summer that is. Every student's dream. No more schedules. No more bus rides. No more tests, papers, bells to obey. Free at last, free at last, thank the almighty calendar-man, free at last!

Free to do what? Yes, free to do what? Read? Participate in organized sports? Free to read? Well, you can see where my thinking's at. Our school district, PSS, caters to 11,000 students more or less during the school year. I'm quite certain that each and every one of those young people are at this moment reading these lines. So, students, please, let me see a show of hands; how many of you will be reading books this summer? Hold on for a minute; I'm counting. Okay, I've got it. I'm adding it up here real quick. Yes, okay, and I've double checked my figures—9!

I guess reading isn't as high on the priority list of our student population as I had supposed it might be. Not good! Parents, do you know where your student is right now? Uh-huh. Well, one hopes so. We know where nine of them are; they're at the library. The other 10,991, are they missing in action?

As I write this it's Father's Day. It is the first day of summer as well, the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. It's also opportunity time. Opportunity for getting ahead of the game time. Those of our young people who make the effort will be very hard to catch in the race for scholarships and other honoraria as this summer and future summers draw to a close as they always and inevitably do.

Yes, it's Liberation week. Yes, school's been out for only a few days at this point. And our young people can make a case for taking some down time. We all need some of that regardless of age, grade, or the requirements of moment. But perhaps down time should be seen as something that should be taken in measured doses, not as something that consumes every waking minute of those days not spent in the classroom or on the job. And, yes, even in this time of a very down economy, many students do maintain jobs—I know how that is; been there, done that.

The fact is that modern society and the now very competitive global economy do not allow for an overabundance of down time. The differences between Third World societies and the economically advanced societies of the world are two: education and work ethic. And, no, for the record, it has nothing directly to do with natural resources. Japan has few natural resources, Singapore fewer still, and Lichtenstein virtually none—oh, and they're all rich! To compete, let alone win, in the new world order requires a very tough spirit and an attitude of commitment to excellence and effort. Nothing less will do; it is a simple fact of life.

Some schools are running summer classes, the libraries are open, other activities are available for free or for nominal cost. The fact is that summer, like the other 10 months of the year, could be well served to include a consciously balanced structure; our youth might be well advised to pursue just that. And, while it is a truism of historical fact that teens especially want not to have their parents around when they are doing whatever it is that the do do; it would not necessarily be a bad idea for parents to join their youngsters in activities that promote their futures in positive ways. Anyway, it's a thought.

Letter to the Editor

Renaming the park is not a trivial issue

Since the powers-that-be opted not to give veterans of Rota and the public the opportunity to voice their concern over the renaming of the Rota Veterans Memorial Park, please allow us to use the media as a venue to express our concerns. Although it has been signed into law, there is still four months until election and therefore the issue is far from over; more so, should those responsible lose votes due to their despotic action.

To begin with, there already exists a road in memory of Cpl. Joe Charfaurus Jr. in Sinapalo village, therefore renaming the Rota Veterans Memorial Park after him is a redundancy. This would have been pointed out in a public hearing. The bill was introduced on March 26 with final reading on April 1. Five days! Imagine what they could accomplish if CUC, the economy, and other life threatening issues are addressed with equal efficiency.

Although my previous letters were aimed at the Rota Legislative Delegation initially, I've found out that the *entire* CNMI Senate sponsored the bill—two of whom are veterans—and was signed into law on May 12. There was more than enough time for the sponsors to put together some kind of ceremony to memorialize their action. Yet they elected not to and left the family by themselves. I wonder why. Were they afraid or perhaps former councilor Tom Quitugua interpreted it right: it's just a political gimmick. Thank you councilor. I'm sure your comment, "For all heroes, both living and dead," is appreciated by all veterans.

May I recommend to those naming enthusiasts in the Senate that a commission be formed to name sites, roads, streets, etc., on Rota so that application is fair and impartial, and not randomly for just friends, relatives and family members. It's the right thing to do.

There was a comment directed to veterans being jealous and other derogatory remarks. Well, coming from a sibling, we do expect such a reaction. However, we are not just mad, we are outraged! Understand this also, all veteran who've witnessed their brothers-in-arm's last breath, smelled and felt the warmth of their blood in battle, and experienced trauma beyond imagination are haunted with the nightmares until the day we die. As for wanting something named after us, please remember that the Rota Veterans Memorial Park *was* named for all us until the Senate's political ploy.

Just so you know, veterans are achievers; CSM Martin T. Manglona, a son of Rota, commands hundreds of sergeants and thousands of corporals and privates; SGM Herman M. Atalig was in a similar command authority until he retired and has been an icon in preparing our youth for military life as a JROTC instructor. As for a true hero in the line of duty, Sgt. Nobert Apatang distinguished himself and was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" for bravery above and beyond the call of duty. So you see, there are others with heroic deeds not recognized, but are satisfied with Rota Veterans Memorial Park, simply because it's for all of us.

Lastly, SGM Atalig's suggestion that a "Wall of Unsung Heroes" be built instead of changing the name of the park was and still is an excellent idea, if only the powers that be are more transparent. With imagination on the design, it could even be an added tourist attraction, especially with a list of those killed in action, for valorous deeds like Sgt. Apatang and a listing of all Rota veterans and active members of the armed services from Rota. Awesome!

Andy M. Ramos
Member, VAR
Dededo, Guam

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds near 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds near 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

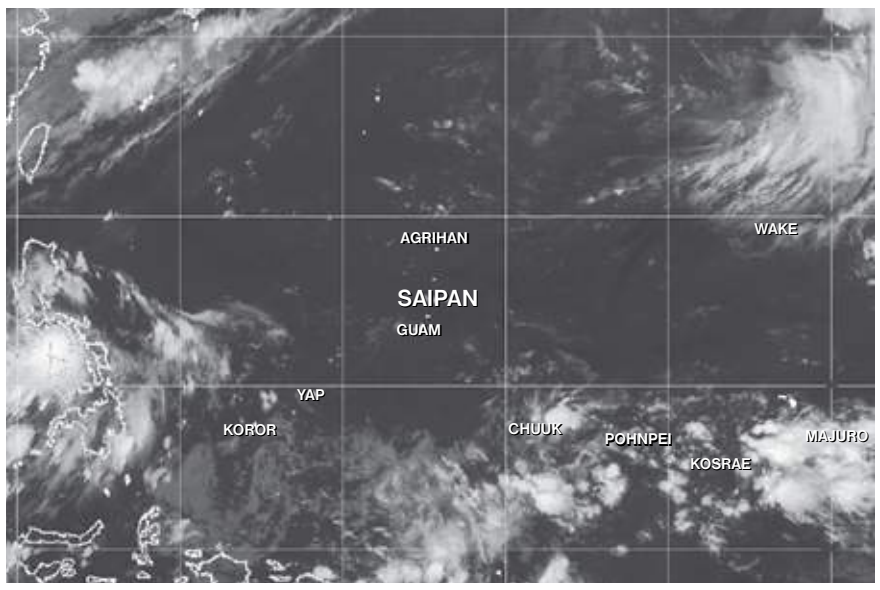
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Rain	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲55	▼52
Beijing	Hot	▲99	▼75
Hong Kong	Showers	▲92	▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲82	▼73
London	Cloudy	▲77	▼55
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲79	▼62
Manila	Rain	▲83	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲61	▼49
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼77
New York	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼70
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼67
Paris	Thundershowers	▲79	▼62
Pusan	Sunny	▲81	▼64
Rome	Showers	▲81	▼61
Salem	Cloudy	▲76	▼47
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼54
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼64
Tokyo	Showers	▲86	▼72
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲93	▼73

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough runs southeastward from Tropical Storm 04W centered at 11N125E to end at 2N143E. Trade-wind convergence north of the trough axis is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 125 miles of a line from 14N130E to 11N134E over Yap within 50 miles of a line from 11N136E to 8N139E and well southwest of Chuuk within an area bounded by a line from 7N141E to EQ143E to EQ152E back to 7N141E. Strong trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Chuuk and Pohnpei within an area bounded by a line from 10N152E to EQ152E to EQ153E to 6N160E back to 10N152E and south of Kosrae between 2N and 5N from 162E to 164E. A surface trough extends northward from EQ164E to 10N165E. Convergence near and to the east of the trough is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 150 miles of a line from 7N167E to 2N173E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:34 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
8:17 AM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
3:49 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
10:57 PM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:05 AM	9:14 PM
Friday	9:08 AM	8:01 PM
Saturday	10:07 AM	10:43 PM
Sunday	11:03 AM	11:23 PM
Monday	11:56 AM	

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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

NMI honorary envoy Ginoza dies

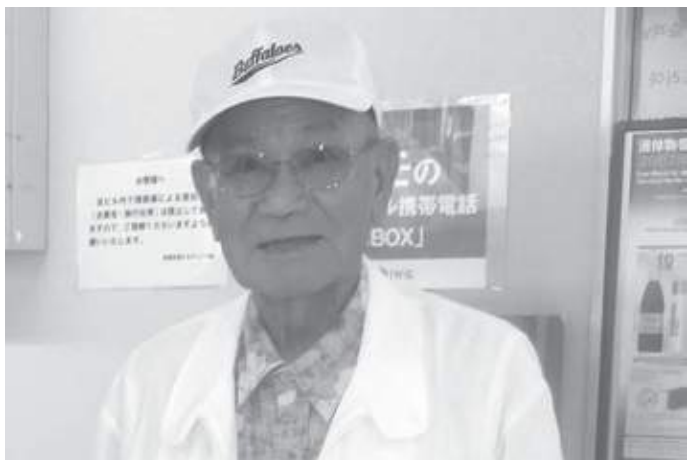
Choken Ginoza, a long-standing and influential supporter of tourism in the Northern Mariana Islands, passed away June 16, 2009, in his Okinawa homeland.

Ginoza was responsible for bringing thousands of visitors to the islands of Saipan and Tinian from Okinawa through his affiliation with the Micronesian Repatriation Association of Okinawa, an association of Okinawans born in Micronesia during the Japanese era of administration. The association returns annually to the NMI to pay respects to the dead and pray for world peace.

A member of the association since its establishment in 1948, Ginoza was also involved in building the memorial Tower of Okinawa in Saipan in 1968 and Tower of Okinawa in Tinian in 1978. He became managing director of Micronesian Repatriation Association of Okinawa in 1970 and has served as chairman since 1986.

Ginoza was named the CNMI's first honorary citizen by CNMI Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio in 1990. In 1998, he was further honored by being named an honorary ambassador by Marianas Visitors Authority.

"Choken Ginoza was a wonderful man and friend of our people," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "He made it clear that the annual visits to Saipan and Tinian were important to him, personally. We are saddened by his passing, but we remain committed to the bonds he worked to strengthen between the people of the Northern Marianas and Okinawa."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Choken Ginoza was a long-standing and influential supporter of tourism in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Ginoza last joined the memorial services in the CNMI in May 2009, despite his poor health.

Through the years, MRA has also been instrumental in bringing students from Micronesia to Okinawa for cultural exchange.

Ginoza began his career in 1944 working for the Japanese embassy in Manila as an employee of the Japanese consulate in Baguio. His later worked in the Transportation Division of the Okinawa United States Army Corps of Engineers and Ryukyu Nissan Automobile Company. In 1973 he was appointed as the part-time adviser of Bereaved Families of the War Dead by the Okinawa Minister of Health and Welfare. He also served as vice chairman of national organization Nanyogunto Kyokai and was a board member of Nissalco Okinawa Sales Co. Ltd.

Ginoza's other lifetime recognitions include an appreciation certificate from the governor of Okinawa Prefecture in 1990 for his contribution to the Micronesia memorial service and international friendship between Micronesia and Okinawa, an appreciation certificate in 1994 from the Okinawa of Bereaved Families Association, and a diploma of appreciation from the governor of Okinawa in 2005 for his devotion to Micronesia Memorial service mission. ***(MVA)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2371 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-GOV-107

OMB and CIP Office Renovations

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the OMB and CIP Office Renovations, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Thursday, June 11, 2009 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Building No. 1356, Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill. A $100.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage as required by the CNMI and Federal laws.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on June 22, 2009, 9:00 a.m., local time, at the project site, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on June 23, 2009 to Mr. Carl Castro, Project Coordinator, Building No. 1356, Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB09-GOV-107"**. An original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, June 30, 2009. Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 11:00 a.m. local time, June 30, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is thirty (30) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred fifty dollars (**$250.00**), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by thirty **(30)** calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DON'T PUT THE SQUEEZE on ME

POLITICAL BULLYING IN THE GOVERNMENT WORKPLACE IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED!

IT'S YOUR RIGHT

Thank your lucky stars that you live in a democratic society which values individual rights including the rights to free speech and freedom of expression. Even as a government employee your individual rights are protected. Political coercion by any of your higher ups to vote a certain way is strictly prohibited.

Don't be afraid to express your political views in the GOP Primary Election on June 27, 2009 and the General Election on November 7, 2009. Your future, our future depends on open and free elections.

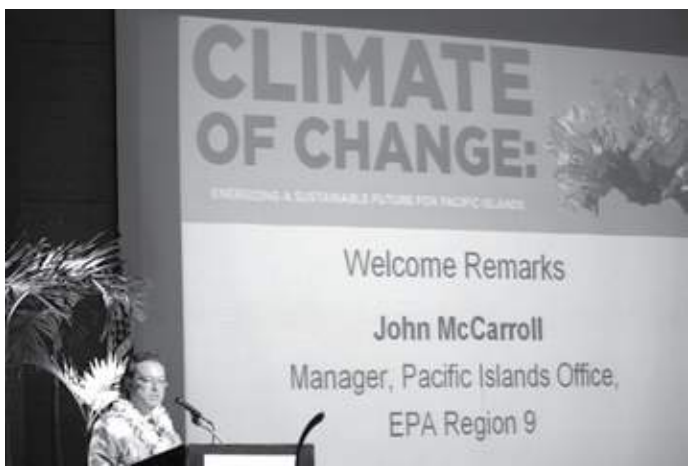
Voting polls open from 7:00 am - 6:00 pm at all regular polling stations designated by the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Heinz S. Hofschneider & Arnold I. Palacios
www.heinzarnold2009.com

Island Snapshots

CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets perform flag duties during the opening ceremonies for the 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference at the Saipan World Resort.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



John McCarroll, manager of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9's Pacific Islands Office, gives his opening remarks at the opening ceremonies for the 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference at the Saipan World Resort. The conference, which has the theme "Climate of Change: Energizing a Sustainable Future for Pacific Islands," is co-hosted by the EPA and the governments of the CNMI, Guam and American Samoa.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

In a pre-recorded video, CNMI Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan addresses the hundreds of conference participants at the 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference at the Saipan World Resort.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Guam Gov. Felix Camacho gives a speech during the opening ceremonies for the 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference at the Saipan World Resort. The Guam governor takes pride in the marine preserves that have led to increased fish stock in the island's reefs.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

HUMANITARIAN MISSION
Tug *Quipuha* gets into position to assist USNS *Richard E. Byrd* out of Apra Harbor on June 17. *Byrd* departed U.S. Naval Base Guam after taking on mission participants and supplies in support of Pacific Partnership 2009. The four-month humanitarian assistance mission aims to provide medical, dental, veterinary and engineering humanitarian civic assistance programs to the people of Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The Pacific Partnership mission is being coordinated with host nations in the region and is being carried out in conjunction with the host nations, partner nations and non-governmental relief organizations to provide ashore. Pacific Partnership 2009 is the fourth in a series of annual U.S. Pacific Fleet humanitarian civic assistance missions.

COMMANDER, JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Gracie Reign, second from right at the back, who celebrated her birthday at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe. Greetings coming from family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JOETEN SCHOLAR
The Joeten Charitable Foundation proudly awards Venetia DL Guerrero, who graduated from Marianas High School, with a scholarship grant for her outstanding achievement in academics and community work.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY CHRISTENING!
Happy Christening to Shalei Terrie, shown here with her Nino Ray, Nina Britney, Daddy Shawn and Mommy Vanessa as they continue their celebration at Redbox of the Saipan World Resort, Saturday, June 20, 2009. Greetings come from your loving familia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

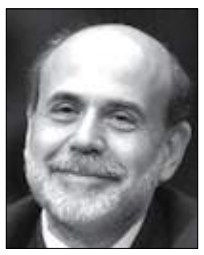
FIRST PLACER
David Q. Meyers Jr., a Kindergarten student in Kagman Elementary School, receives his medal from Kagman principal Ignacia Demanpan on June 8 for placing first out of 12 Kindergarten participants during the Math Contest at Kagman Elementary School on June 1.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Fed mulls tweaks to economic revival programs

WASHINGTON (AP)—With signs the economy is improving but still fragile, Federal Reserve policymakers are considering whether some programs intended to drive down rates on mortgages and other consumer debt should be slowed down.


Bernanke

Most economists predict Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues won't launch any bold new efforts at the end of a two-day meeting Wednesday.

Fears have grown on Wall Street that the Fed's radical efforts to lift the country out of the longest recession since World War II could ignite inflation later on.

"Injecting additional money into the banking system is a pretty dangerous game right now, and the Fed cannot afford to press on the accelerator amid a potentially inflationary environment," said Richard Yamarone, economist at Argus Research.

Wanting to snuff out any rise in inflation expectations, the Fed could opt to tweak its already-announced programs to slow down purchases of either government debt or mortgage-backed securities. Doing so also could help avert possible market disruptions and make it easier for the Fed to reel in these programs once the economy rebounds.

In March, the Fed launched a bold $1.2 trillion effort to drive down interest rates to try to revive lending and get Americans to spend more freely again. It said it would spend up to $300 billion to buy long-term government bonds over six months and boost its purchases of mortgage securities. So far, the Fed has bought about $177.5 billion in Treasury bonds.

The Fed is on track to buy up to $1.25 trillion worth of securities issued by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac by the end of this year or early next year. Nearly $456 billion worth of those securities have been purchased.

But slowing down the purchases carries risk, including that rates on mortgages and government debt could rise more than expected, which could hurt the economy's prospects for emerging from recession, economists said.

A recent run-up in rates on mortgages and Treasury securities, if prolonged, could choke off prospects for an economic recovery. Some of those fears were eased last week, when rates on 30-year mortgages dipped to 5.38 percent after a string of weekly increases.

Meanwhile, the Fed is all but certain to hold its key bank lending rate at a record low between zero and 0.25 percent when the meeting concludes and probably through the rest of this year, economists said.

Memphis hospital confirms Jobs liver transplant

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Apple co-founder and CEO Steve Jobs has an "excellent prognosis" after receiving a liver transplant at a Tennessee hospital, a doctor confirmed Tuesday.

"He received a liver transplant because he was ... the sickest patient on the waiting list at the time a donor organ became available," said Dr. James D. Eason, chief of transplantation at Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute in Memphis. "Mr. Jobs is now recovering well and has an excellent prognosis."

Eason said in a news release posted on the hospital's Web site that when Jobs received the transplant, he was in end-stage liver disease.

Eason did not reveal when the operation took place, citing patient privacy. However, The Wall Street Journal reported it was two months ago.

Apple did not confirm the WSJ report, and has said only that Jobs is looking forward to returning to Apple—which he started in 1976—at the end of June.

Eason said the hospital could not reveal further information on the specifics of the transplant.

"That's all that we are giving out at this time," hospital spokeswoman Ruth Ann Hale told The Associated Press.

Wall Street has grappled with the implications of Jobs' illness since August 2004, when investors learned the CEO had kept a cancer diagnosis secret until after he underwent surgery. The company's past silence on matters of Jobs' health made shareholders jittery when he appeared increasingly, even alarmingly, thin last year.

Investors sent the stock tumbling 5 percent to its lowest point in a year on a rumor last October that Jobs had suffered a heart attack.

Then shares slipped 2 percent in December when Apple said that Jobs would not speak as usual the next month at the annual Macworld conference, then bounced up 4 percent on Jan. 5 when Jobs explained his weight loss as a treatable hormone imbalance. They sank 7 percent a week later after Apple said he would be taking six months off because his medical problems were more complex than he initially thought.

Since then, Wall Street's whiplash has had time to heal, especially because Apple's stock has weathered the recession better than those of most of its competitors.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Boeing again delays initial 787 test flight

Boeing Co. has again delayed the first test flight of its long-awaited 787 jetliner, a hot-selling aircraft seen as pivotal for the company and the way it builds airplanes in the future. The Chicago-based aerospace giant said Tuesday it needs to reinforce small areas near the connection of the wings and fuselage before conducting the test flight, which Boeing had insisted would occur before July. A revised schedule for the flight, as well as first deliveries to customers, will not be announced for several weeks. The announcement comes as Boeing, the world's second-largest commercial airplane maker, and European archrival Airbus SA grapple with slumping orders for their jets as the recession dampens demand for air travel and cargo services. Tight credit markets also have muted orders for new planes. ***(AP)***

GM to cut 4,000 more white-collar jobs by year end

DETROIT (AP)—About 4,000 more salaried workers at General Motors Corp. will lose their jobs by the end of the year as the automaker continues to downsize. The company notified its more than 27,000 U.S. white-collar workers by e-mail Tuesday that that it will offer standard severance packages, and employees near retirement age will have the opportunity to retire early, spokesman Tom Wilkinson said. Some involuntary cuts will be necessary, Wilkinson said, as GM tries to shrink its U.S. salaried work force to around 23,500 by year's end.

Oracle tops forecasts despite sales, profit dip

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Software maker Oracle Corp.'s results for its latest quarter topped Wall Street's forecast Tuesday, despite a 5 percent drop in sales and a 7 percent decline in profit. The company blamed the declines on the effects of a stronger dollar—which makes deals done in other currencies translate into fewer greenbacks. Companies also have been shelling out less for new software because of the recession. Still, Oracle's chief financial officer, Jeff Epstein, said in a statement that Oracle executed "substantially better" than the company expected. A key reason: better sales of support contracts, which are a cash cow for Oracle even in bad times.

Nation

Computer failure may have caused DC train crash

WASHINGTON (AP)—Investigators looking into the deadly crash of two Metro transit trains focused Tuesday on why a computerized system failed to halt an oncoming train, even though there is evidence that the operator tried to slow it down.

At the time of the crash, the train was also operating in automatic mode, meaning it was controlled primarily by computer. In that mode, the operator's main job is to open and close the doors and respond to emergencies.

Debbie Hersman, an investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board, said it was unclear if the emergency brake was actually engaged when Monday's crash occurred. But the mushroom-shaped button that activates it was found pushed down in the operator's compartment.

AP

Margot Rojas, friend of Ana Fernandez, a victim in Tuesday's Metro transit train crash in Washington, grieves during a church service at Ministerio Casa de Dios in Hyattsville, Md. on Tuesday, June 23, 2009.

Hersman said it wasn't clear when the button was pressed or how it got that way. She also said there was evidence of braking on the train's rotors, indicating it was likely that the operator tried to slow down.

The train plowed into a stopped train ahead of it at the height of the Monday evening rush hour, killing nine people and injuring more than 70 in the deadliest accident in the 30-year history of the Metro.

Crews spent Tuesday pulling apart the wreckage and searching for bodies. Authorities also worked to determine why the train's safeguards apparently did not kick in.

"That train was never supposed to get closer than 1,200 feet, period," said Jackie Jeter, president of a union that represents Metro workers.

All Metro trains were running on manual control Tuesday as a precaution against computer malfunction.

The cars in the moving train were some of the oldest in the transit network, dating to the founding of the system.

Obama condemns violence against Iran protesters

WASHINGTON (AP—Dramatically hardening the U.S. reaction to Iran's disputed elections and bloody aftermath, President Barack Obama condemned the violence against protesters Tuesday and lent his strongest support yet to their accusations the hardline victory was a fraud.

Obama, who has been accused by some Republicans of being too timid in his response to events in Iran, declared himself "appalled and outraged" by the deaths and intimidation in Tehran's streets—and scoffed at suggestions he was toughening his rhetoric in response to the criticism.

He suggested Iran's leaders will face consequences if they continue "the threats, the beatings and imprisonments" against protesters. But he repeatedly declined to say what actions the U.S. might take, retaining—for now—the option of pursuing diplomatic engagement with Iran's leaders over its suspected nuclear weapons program.

"We don't know yet how this thing is going to play out," the president said. "It is not too late for the Iranian government to recognize that there is a peaceful path that will lead to stability and legitimacy and prosperity for the Iranian people. We hope they take it."

Obama borrowed language from struggles throughout history against oppressive governments to condemn the efforts by Iran's rulers to crush dissent in the wake of June 12 presidential elections. Citing the searing video circulated worldwide of the apparent shooting death of Neda Agha Soltan, a 26-year-old young woman who bled to death in a Tehran street and now is a powerful symbol for the demonstrators, Obama said flatly that human rights violations were taking place.

ACROSS THE NATION

Palin reimburses Alaska $8K for 9 family trips

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Gov. Sarah Palin has paid more than $8,100 to reimburse Alaska for the costs associated with nine trips taken with her children. Palin's attorney, Thomas Van Flein, says the governor paid $8,143.62 to the state on June 19 for the nine trips, some with more than one of her five children, taken between January 2007 and February of this year. The payment was due Tuesday. An ethics complaint had alleged Palin abused her power by charging the state when her children traveled with her. The Alaska Personnel Board found no wrongdoing, but Palin agreed to reimburse the state for trips found to be of questionable state interest.

NJ girl, 14, gets probation for posting nude pics

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—A 14-year-old New Jersey girl who posted nude pictures of herself on MySpace.com will have child pornography counts dropped. The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office says the girl must undergo at least six months of counseling and probation and must stay out of trouble. If she does, all charges will be dropped. The Clifton teen was initially arrested and charged with possession of child pornography and distribution of child pornography. If convicted on those counts, she could have been required to register as a sex offender.

Minn. teen says he's angry about continuing chemo

NEW ULM, Minn. (AP)—A 13-year-old boy with cancer who fled Minnesota last month to avoid chemotherapy must continue getting the treatment because it appears to be working, a judge ruled Tuesday. The ruling came as court documents showed that Daniel Hauser's tumor had shrunk significantly after a recent round of chemotherapy. Daniel's parents are still concerned about the risks of chemotherapy, which they initially had rejected for religious reasons, saying it harms the body. But they told Brown County Judge John Rodenberg that they would take Daniel to a chemo appointment on Wednesday while carrying out his treatment one step at a time.

Asia

NKorean cargo ship could test new UN sanctions

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—An American destroyer tailed a North Korean ship Tuesday as it sailed along China's coast, U.S. officials said, amid concerns the vessel is carrying illicit arms destined for Myanmar.

The sailing sets up the first test of a new U.N. Security Council resolution that authorizes member states to inspect North Korean vessels suspected of carrying banned weapons or materials. The sanctions are punishment for an underground nuclear test the North carried out last month in defiance of past resolutions.

A U.S. official said last week that the American destroyer has no orders to intercept the ship, but experts say the vessel will need to stop to refuel soon. The resolution prohibits member states from providing such services to ships accused of bearing banned goods.

Nearby Singapore—the world's largest refueling hub—says it will "act appropriately" if the ship docks at its port with suspicious goods on board.

Meanwhile, U.S. defense and counterproliferation officials said Tuesday that an impending missile test threatened by North Korea is expected to launch short- to medium-range missiles rather than a long-range missile similar to one tested in April. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence.

Japanese media have reported that the North Koreans appear to be preparing for a long-range test planned sometime around July 4 and to be fired toward Hawaii.

The North Korean-flagged Kang Nam left the port of Nampo last Wednesday, with the U.S. destroyer following it. Two Pentagon officials described a relay operation in which the destroyer USS John S. McCain would hand over surveillance of the ship to the destroyer USS McCampbell. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence.

The North has said it would consider any interception "an act of war," and an editorial Tuesday in its main Rodong Sinmun newspaper said the Korean peninsula was on the brink of a nuclear war.

"A grave situation is being forged in the Korean peninsula where a nuclear war could happen with any accidental factor due to the sanctions," said the editorial carried on the government-run Uriminzokkiri Web site.

Report: Kim Jong Il puts son as head of spy agency

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has put his youngest son in charge of the country's spy agency as a prelude to handing him control of the communist regime, a news report said Wednesday.

Kim visited the headquarters of the State Security Department in March, along with his 26-year-old son, Kim Jong Un, and told agency leaders to "uphold" his third son as head of the department, South Korea's Dong-a Ilbo newspaper reported citing an unnamed source.

Kim also told department leaders to "safeguard comrade Kim Jong Un with (your) lives as you did for me in the past," and gave them five foreign-made cars, each worth some $80,000, as gifts, the mass-market daily said.

It said Kim visited a college that educates spy agents last month and made similar remarks there.

Pyongyang's State Security Department is the backbone of Kim's harsh rule over the totalitarian nation. It keeps a close watch over government agencies, the military and ordinary people for any signs of dissent. It also engages in spy missions abroad.

The move to put Kim Jong Un in charge of the agency illustrates the elder Kim's concern about any possible backlash that the father-to-son succession could prompt, the Dong-a said. It said the North plans to bolster the agency by putting the country's 100,000-strong border-guarding force under its arm. The force is now under the Defense Ministry.

Assassination in Pakistan exposes Taliban rifts

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—The assassination of the leader of a renegade Pakistani Taliban faction by one of his own men Tuesday underscores a growing rift in the ranks of the militant group as it braces for an impending army assault in the volatile northwest.

Qari Zainuddin's killing sets back government hopes of exploiting these internal divisions in the South Waziristan tribal region, where the army has been pounding strongholds of Pakistani Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud in apparent preparation for a major, U.S.-backed offensive.

Suspected U.S. missiles also hammered the same areas Tuesday, striking a purported Taliban training center and then a funeral procession for some of those killed in the earlier attack. Up to 40 people were killed—including Sangeen Khan, a top aide to Mehsud—and 60 more wounded, said two intelligence officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because it would compromise their jobs.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Foreign reporters allowed scripted trip to Tibet

LHASA, China (AP)—The Chinese paramilitary police who usually patrol Tibet's often tense capital went to work in black and yellow track suits last week instead of their green uniforms. The occasion: a government-arranged visit by a group of foreign journalists. Sixteen months after an uprising prompted a harsh Chinese crackdown, the four-day glimpse given to 16 foreign journalists showed official nervousness about Tibet—which has unsteadily weathered nearly six decades of Chinese rule—and how hard the government is trying to show that the uneasy region has returned to normal. The reporters, who arrived Thursday, were taken on rushed visits to an experimental primary school in Lhasa, to a new home to meet a young Tibetan couple and their two children and to a monastery at the heart of last year's protests.

Conservationist: 15 rare Sumatran elephants killed

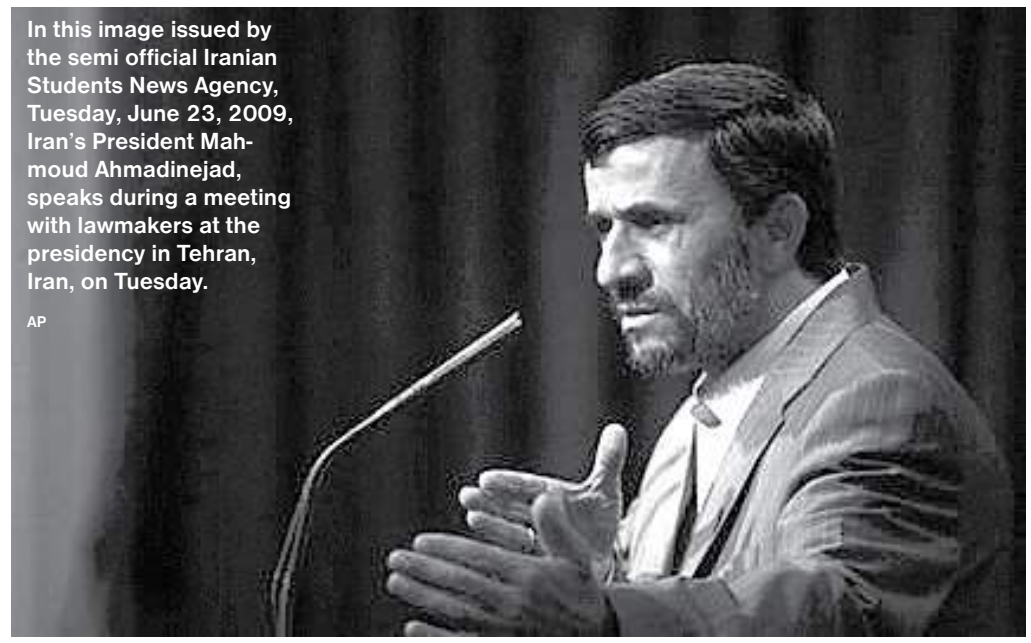
JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—At least 15 endangered Sumatran elephants have been shot or poisoned to death with cyanide-laced fruit this year, marking a sharp rise in the rate of killing from 2008, a government conservationist said Wednesday. The giant mammals were mostly killed by poachers for their ivory, said Tony Suhartono, the director of biodiversity conservation at the Forest Ministry. The number killed in the past six months is equal to the total for the whole of 2008, he said. "It is shocking," said Syamsidar, a campaigner with the World Wildlife Fund in the western island of Sumatra.

Chinese media says dissident Liu Xiaobo arrested

BEIJING (AP)—Prominent dissident Liu Xiaobo, who co-authored a manifesto calling for sweeping reforms to China's rigid political system, has been arrested for activities allegedly aimed at overthrowing the country's socialist system, state media said Wednesday. Liu has been in police custody since they took him away on Dec. 8, a day before the political document was released. "Liu has been engaged in agitation activities, such as the spreading of rumors and defaming of the government, aimed at subversion of the state and overthrowing the socialism system in recent years," Xinhua News Agency quoted a Beijing police statement as saying.

World

Intensified crackdown mutes protests in Iran



In this image issued by the semi official Iranian Students News Agency, Tuesday, June 23, 2009, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, speaks during a meeting with lawmakers at the presidency in Tehran, Iran, on Tuesday.

AP

CAIRO (AP)—Overwhelmed by police and left with limited alternatives, Iranian demonstrators resorted Tuesday to more subtle ways of challenging the outcome of the presidential election: holding up posters, shouting from rooftops and turning on car headlights.

But the restrained expressions of discontent appeared to be scattered as Iran's ruling clerics dealt the opposition new setbacks, making clear they have no intention of holding a new vote and setting up a special court to deal with hundreds of protesters arrested in more than a week of unrest.

Iran also expelled two diplomats from Britain—a nation it bitterly accuses of meddling and spying—and Britain in turn sent two Iranian envoys home.

The latest moves, and a fresh deployment of riot police and militia to break up any street gatherings, signaled the regime's determination to squelch dissent and mute the voices of those whose protests have been the largest since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"People are calmly protesting, more symbolically than with their voices," a Tehran resident said in a telephone interview, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of government retribution.

Israel releases senior Hamas lawmaker

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel on Tuesday freed the most senior of dozens of Hamas politicians in custody, prompting speculation it was a prelude to a deal for the release of an Israeli soldier held by Palestinians for three years.

However, Israeli officials insisted the Palestinian parliament speaker, Abdel Aziz Duaik, was let go because his three-year sentence was nearly at an end and that his release was not related to a swap involving the Israeli soldier, Sgt. Gilad Schalit. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because no steps had been taken.

Since Hamas-allied militants in Gaza captured Schalit in June 2006, Egypt has been trying to arrange an Israel-Hamas swap that would bring his release. The negotiations have been accompanied by frequent reports that a deal was close, only to be followed by new setbacks.

Israel has expressed willingness to free hundreds of Hamas prisoners, but has balked at releasing several senior Hamas militants serving lengthy terms for attacks that killed and wounded Israelis.

WORLD BRIEFS

US, Kyrgyzstan reach deal on air base use

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP)—The former Soviet republic of Kyrgyzstan tentatively approved a deal on Tuesday that should allow the U.S. to continue shipping military hardware and troops crucial to operations in Afghanistan through an air base in the Central Asian state. U.S. forces had in February been ordered out of the Manas air base by a presidential decree that stunned Washington and drew suspicion that Kyrgyzstan was acting under the influence of Russia, which staunchly opposes Western military presence near its borders. Russia also has a base in Kyrgyzstan. But the deal approved Tuesday by a Kyrgyz parliamentary committee apparently would allow the American base to remain open and continue to be used by U.S. forces to transport weaponry and ammunition. That should provide a much-needed boost as the U.S.-led coalition ramps up its military operations against Taliban and al-Qaida fighters in Afghanistan.

Andres weakens to tropical storm

PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico (AP)—Andres briefly flared up into the Pacific season's first hurricane Tuesday, then quickly weakened back to a tropical storm as it swirled up the Pacific coast sideswiping Mexico with powerful rains that left at least one person dead. Andres flooded homes, toppled trees and killed at least one person as it swiped Mexico's southwestern coast with wind and rain. Its winds weakened to 70 mph (110 kph) from 75 mph (120 kph) earlier Tuesday, and it was expected to weaken even more over the next day or two, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. The center of the storm as of 11 p.m. EDT (0300 GMT) was about 90 miles (150 kilometers) south of Cabo Corrientes, just south of Puerto Vallarta. Moving near 10 mph (17 kph) toward the northwest, it was forecast to pass by that part of the coast early Wednesday.

WWIII? British release secret planning manual

LONDON (AP)—It's October 1968, and the Soviet Union has just landed cosmonauts on the moon. Warsaw Pact troops are massing on the Austrian border, and nuclear showdown looms between east and west. This scenario never happened—except in planning exercises by British civil servants, who meticulously rehearsed how they would govern Britain in the days before, and after, World War III. The details are included in the "War Book," a secret Cold War manual declassified this month for the first time. The book, which featured the doomsday scenario in a 1970 version, is a step-by-step guide for dealing with a crisis, from the first stages of conflict to "R hour," the designation for the release of all Britain's nuclear weapons.

Environment

Bridge Capital donates $2K to Beautify CNMI!

Bridge Capital donated $2,000 to Beautify CNMI last Thursday during a ceremony at the Governor's Office on Capital Hill.

Beautify CNMI has earmarked the funds to support the Solid Waste Committee, which coordinates weekly cleanups. The donation will fund at least six months of volunteer cleanups.

"For three years we have depended on the generosity of the community to support our volunteer programs," said Angelo Villagomez of Beautify CNMI. "This donation will ensure that 2009 will be our most successful year yet."

Bridge Capital LLC chief executive officer John K. Baldwin, center, presents a $2,000 check to Beautify CNMI's Angelo Villagomez at the Office of the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill Thursday, June 18, 2009. At right is Joe Kaipat of the Division of Environmental Quality.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bridge Capital, LLC is an international investment banking firm specializing in high yield real estate secured lending, distressed debt acquisition and restructuring, equity and debt placement, and investment management services. The company is based out of Saipan, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Beautify CNMI! is a coalition of concerned citizens, private groups, and government entities united to enhance the CNMI's natural beauty and foster community pride in its residents and visitors. Beautify CNMI was the 2006 Saipan Tribune Person of the Year, was a recipient of a 2007 EPA Environmental Award and received a Certificate of Commendation from the United States Congress in 2009. For more information visit them online at http://www.beautifycnmi.org. ***(PR)***

Student toolkit shows climate change impacts

ON THE NET

More information on toolkit: http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/CCWKit.html

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is releasing a new toolkit to enhance middle school students' understanding of climate change impacts on the nation's wildlife and the habitats on which they depend.

The kit, "Climate Change, Wildlife, and Wildlands Toolkit for Formal and Informal Educators," contains case studies and activities based on climate science, environmental education and stewardship information. It is designed to educate and engage students to become stewards of wildlife and ecosystems.

EPA partnered with six other federal agencies in developing this new kit, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management. ***(EPA)***

Marpi closed off today for detonation

The Marpi area will be closed off today, June 25, 2009, from 12pm to 4:30pm for a detonation operation. Tour and dive operators, farmers, joggers and bikers are advised to avoid the area during the times indicated.

The activity will be jointly conducted by the Department of Public Safety, the Emergency Management Office, and the U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment Marianas.

The general location of the detonation will be at the Laderan Laggun Cliff Line, a mile north of the Marpi landfill. The grid coordinates is 15 degrees, 16.11 minutes 0.0865 seconds North and 145 degrees, 49 minutes 0.3313 seconds East and 5,000 feet above sea level.

The only area that will not be closed off will be Suicide Cliff which will be the main viewing point for the detonation. Public access to Suicide Cliff is allowed only through the road leading up to the Far East Broadcasting antenna for viewing purposes.

DPS will set security posts to enforce and control traffic movement for safety purposes. ***(DPS)***

Rainbow cook-off challenge today

The Cook A Rainbow Challenge will be held tonight at the Garapan Street Market at 7pm.

There are a total of 11 participants, six in the youth category and five in the non-professional category.

Five judges will be sample the 11 dishes and select the top three winners for each category. Judging will be based on taste, creative presentation, texture, use of fresh local ingredients and originality.

On its 5th year, the competition goal is to promote locally grown and available foods to promote healthy living. People who eat generous amounts of fruits and vegetables as part of a healthy diet are likely to have reduced risk of chronic diseases, including strokes, type 2 diabetes, some types of cancer, and perhaps heart disease and high blood pressure.

The contest is coordinated by the Ayuda Network, CNMI Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, NMC-CREES, PSS-Headstart, DPH-Breast and Cervical Cancer Program and the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

For more information about the Cook A Rainbow Challenge, contact Rose or Patricia at 234-5498 ext. 1726/1703. ***(DEQ)***

SUMMIT EYESORE

BUD CARROLL

In a recent e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*, former Saipan resident Rev. Ewing W. "Bud" Carroll Jr. said: "During my recent brief return to Saipan, I was dismayed to find so much trash on Mount Tapochao. It's bad enough to have to drive up that horrible road to reach the top but then to see candles, tin cans and bottles strewn around is sad and seemingly so unnecessary."

Hamilton eyed as director of US Fish and Wildlife Service

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has praised President Obama's announcement that he intends to nominate Sam D. Hamilton to be the next Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Hamilton, a career senior biologist and manager with the Service, currently is director of the agency's Southeast Region. The nomination requires Senate confirmation.

"Sam has vast experience with every aspect of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's mission, making him an ideal nominee to direct the agency," Salazar said. "Throughout his career, he has been an innovative leader in developing new conservation initiatives and resolving complex and controversial environmental issues. He will be a strong advocate for sound science and effective management of our nation's fish and wildlife."

Hamilton

Hamilton, who has been with the Service for 30 years, was appointed Southeast Regional Director in Atlanta, Georgia in 1997, serving as senior operating executive with full strategic planning and management responsibility for a $484 million budget and a 1,500-person workforce that operates in 10 states and the Caribbean.

As regional director, Hamilton has been responsible for the oversight and management of more than 350 federally listed threatened and endangered species and 128 national wildlife refuges. He has provided leadership and oversight to the department's restoration work in the Everglades, the largest ecosystem restoration project in the country, and oversaw recovery and restoration work following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which devastated coastal wetlands, wildlife refuges, and other wildlife habitat along the Gulf of Mexico.

Hamilton's leadership fostered creative solutions and innovation that led to the establishment of a carbon sequestration program that has helped biologists in the Southeast restore roughly 80,000 acres of wildlife habitat. His emphasis on partnership bolstered the Service's fisheries program and helped establish the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership to restore vital aquatic habitats across the region. This partnership is a key piece of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

Prior to becoming regional director, Hamilton served as assistant regional director of the ecological services in Atlanta and the Service's Texas state administrator in Austin.

Hamilton graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology in 1977. ***(DOI)***

Life & Style

'Tonight' sidekick Ed McMahon dies in LA at 86

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ed McMahon, the loyal "Tonight" show sidekick who bolstered boss Johnny Carson with guffaws and a resounding "H-e-e-e-e-e-ere's Johnny!" for 30 years, died early Tuesday. He was 86. McMahon died shortly after midnight at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center surrounded by his wife, Pam, and other family members, said his publicist, Howard Bragman.

Bragman didn't give a cause of death, saying only that McMahon had a "multitude of health problems the last few months."

McMahon broke his neck in a fall in March 2007, and battled a series of financial problems as his injuries prevented him from working.

Doc Severinsen, "Tonight" bandleader during most of the Carson era, said McMahon was a man "full of life and joy and celebration."

"He will be sorely missed. He was one of the greats in show business, but most of all he was a gentleman. I miss my friend," Severinsen said in a statement.

Don Rickles, a frequent "Tonight" guest, said McMahon was "a friend from the day I first walked" onto the show's stage.

"That kind of fun will never be repeated. Ed was the best at what he did and will never be replaced. Another giant is gone," the comedian said.

"I will miss that laugh, and I will miss him," said Bob Newhart, another "Tonight" regular.

David Letterman paid tribute to McMahon as a "true broadcaster" and key part of Carson's show.

"Ed McMahon's voice at 11:30 was a signal that something great was about to happen. Ed's introduction of Johnny was a classic broadcasting ritual—reassuring and exciting," Letterman said, adding, "We will miss him."

Letterman's bandleader, Paul Shaffer, said McMahon "defined professionalism in broadcasting."

David Brenner, who often filled in as a guest host for Carson, called McMahon "the best sidekick TV has ever known."

"He was a human GPS navigational system, guiding you in all the right directions, keeping you from going off course, rerouting you when you did and making all of it great fun," Brenner said.

Jerry Digney, who was McMahon's longtime publicist, said McMahon was the most "courtly, good-natured person you could ever meet" and that he brought "elegance, humor and a new sense of importance" to the role of second banana.

McMahon and Carson had worked together for nearly five years on the game show "Who Do You Trust?" when Carson took over NBC's late-night show from Jack Paar in October 1962. McMahon played second banana on "Tonight" until Carson retired in 1992.

"You can't imagine hooking up with a guy like Carson," McMahon said in an interview with The Associated Press in 1993. "There's the old phrase, hook your wagon to a star. I hitched my wagon to a great star."

McMahon, who never failed to laugh at his Carson's quips, kept his supporting role in perspective.

"It's like a pitcher who has a favorite catcher," he said. "The pitcher gets a little help from the catcher, but the pitcher's got to throw the ball. Well, Johnny Carson had to throw the ball, but I could give him a little help."

"And now h-e-e-e-e-e-ere's Johnny!" was McMahon's trademark opener for each "Tonight" show, followed by a small, respectful bow toward the star. McMahon's style was honed during his youthful days as a carnival hawker.

The highlight for McMahon came just after the monologue, when he and Carson would chat before the guests took the stage.

"We would just have a free-for-all," he said in the AP interview. "Now to sit there, with one of the brightest, most well-read men I've ever met, the funniest, and just to hold your own in that conversation. ... I loved that."

When Carson died in 2005, McMahon said he was "like a brother to me," and recalled bantering with him on the phone a few months earlier.

"We could have gone on (television) that night and done a 'Carnac' skit. We were that crisp and hot."

McMahon's medical and financial problems kept him in the headlines in his last years. It was reported in June 2008 that he was facing possible foreclosure on his Beverly Hills home. By year's end, a deal was worked out allowing him to stay in his home, but legal action involving other alleged debts continued.

Among those who had stepped up with offers of help was Donald Trump.

"When I was at the Wharton School of Business I'd watch him every night," Trump told the Los Angeles Times in August. "How could this happen?"

McMahon even spoofed his own problems with a spot that aired during the 2009 Super Bowl promoting a cash-for-gold business. Pairing up with rap artist MC Hammer, he explained how easy it is to turn gold items into cash, jokingly saying "Goodbye, old friend" to a gold toilet and rolling out a convincing "H-e-e-e-e-e-ere's money!"

Born Edward Leo Peter McMahon Jr. on March 6, 1923, in Detroit, McMahon grew up in Lowell, Mass. He got his start on television playing a circus clown on the 1950-51 variety series "Big Top." But the World War II Marine veteran interrupted his career to serve as a fighter pilot in Korea.

He joined "Who Do You Trust?" in 1958, its second year, the start of his long association with Carson. It was a partnership that outlasted their multiple marriages, which provided regular on-air fodder for jokes.

While Carson built his career around "Tonight" and withdrew from the limelight after his retirement, McMahon took a different path. He was host of several shows over the years, including "The Kraft Music Hall" (1968) and the amateur talent contest "Star Search," whose competitors included over the years Justin Timberlake, Usher, LeAnn Rimes, Adam Sandler and Rosie O'Donnell.

He was a longtime co-host of the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Association Telethon, a Labor Day weekend institution, and was co-host with Dick Clark of "TV's Bloopers and Practical Jokes."

"On the telethon, he was my right-hand man," Lewis said. "It's hard to imagine doing the show without him."

McMahon also did behind-the-scenes work for the association, Lewis said, adding: "Of the thousands of celebrities who've helped 'my kids' during the last 50-plus years, none has given more, and given more gladly, than Ed McMahon."

Clark said: "We were together for years. Ed was a big man, had big talent and a really big heart. We'll all miss him."

McMahon and Clark also teamed up as pitchmen for American Family Publishers' sweepstakes, with their faces a familiar sight on contest entry forms and in TV commercials. McMahon was known for his ongoing commercials for Budweiser as well.

He had supporting roles in several movies, including "Fun With Dick and Jane" (1977) and "Just Write" (1997). He took on his first regular TV series job in the 1997 WB sitcom "The Tom Show" with Tom Arnold.

McMahon released his autobiography, "For Laughing Out Loud: My Life and Good Times," in 1998. In it, he recounts the birth of "Tonight."

"Let's just go down there and entertain the hell out of them," Carson told him before the first show. Wrote McMahon: "That was the only advice I ever got from him."

In 1993, he recalled his first meeting with Carson after they left "Tonight."

"The first thing he said was, 'I really miss you. You know, it was fun, wasn't it?'" McMahon recalled. "I said, 'It was great.' And it was. It was just great."

Besides his wife, Pam, McMahon is survived by children Claudia, Katherine, Linda, Jeffrey and Lex.

Bragman said no funeral arrangements have been made.

AP

In this Aug. 27, 2003 file photo, entertainer Ed McMahon waves to the media upon arriving at "The Bob Hope Memorial Tribute" at the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in the North Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

Here's Ed: McMahon a second banana for the TV ages

LOS ANGELES (AP)— When Johnny Carson ruled as king of late-night TV, Ed McMahon was the prince of second bananas.

McMahon's great talent as Carson's "Tonight Show" sidekick was reacting to his every joke, every double-take and every skit as if he'd never heard or seen anything funnier.

His implausibly hearty laugh buoyed Carson even when his comedy fell flat, which could happen to the best of talk show hosts, and encouraged the audience to believe they were always at the right party.

Viewers wanted to do what Ed was doing: sit next to Johnny and be his good buddy, at least for an hour or so.

Each night brought the familiar, booming introduction, rooted in McMahon's days as an eager young hawker at carnivals and state fairs.

"And now h-e-e-e-e-e-ere's Johnny!" McMahon shouted out in his rich announcer's voice, followed by a slight but unmistakable bow toward Carson.

Sure, he was kowtowing—but to a really cool boss.

McMahon died shortly after midnight Tuesday at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center surrounded by his wife, Pam, and other family members, said his publicist, Howard Bragman. He was 86.

Bragman didn't give a cause of death, saying only that McMahon had a "multitude of health problems the last few months."

McMahon broke his neck in a fall in March 2007, and battled a series of financial problems as his injuries prevented him from working.

Doc Severinsen, "Tonight" bandleader during the Carson era, remembered McMahon as a man "full of life and joy and celebration."

"He will be sorely missed. He was one of the greats in show business, but most of all he was a gentleman. I miss my friend," Severinsen said in a statement.

David Letterman paid tribute to McMahon as a "true broadcaster" and key part of Carson's show.

"Ed McMahon's voice at 11:30 was a signal that something great was about to happen. Ed's introduction of Johnny was a classic broadcasting ritual—reassuring and exciting," Letterman said, adding, "We will miss him."

McMahon became emblematic of his breed and a comedy favorite. The boisterous Hank "Hey Now!" Kingsley on the HBO comedy "The Larry Sanders Show" was clearly patterned on McMahon, while Phil Hartman channeled him opposite Dana Carvey's Johnny Carson on "Saturday Night Live."

Carson knew he had picked the right sideman. He kept McMahon on board for all of his three decades on "Tonight" and the two worked together for nearly five years before that, on the game show "Who Do You Trust?"

The contrast between the men worked for comedy. Carson was drolly sophisticated, while McMahon had a good-humored everyman air. McMahon's solid 6-foot-4 frame gave him size advantage over the slender, shorter Carson, making McMahon's guffaws seem more a gift than a duty.

That regular-guy persona helped as McMahon vigorously marketed himself and secured his place in pop culture beyond "Tonight."

AP

This March, 1986 file photo shows Ed McMahon. McMahon, the loyal "Tonight Show" sidekick who bolstered boss Johnny Carson with guffaws and a resounding "H-e-e-e-e-e-ere's Johnny!" for 30 years, died Tuesday morning, June 23, 2009 at a Los Angeles hospital. He was 86.

Kate Gosselin says marriage 'irretrievably broken'

AP

In this publicity image released by TLC, reality TV stars, Jon Gosselin, right, and his wife Kate Gosselin, from the TLC series, "Jon & Kate Plus 8," are shown in Hawaii.

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Kate Gosselin says in divorce papers that her marriage to Jon is "irretrievably broken." The star of TLC's "Jon & Kate Plus 8" filed for a no-fault divorce Monday in Montgomery County Court outside Philadelphia. She said in papers that she's willing to "negotiate a fair and reasonable" settlement with her husband of 10 years.

The divorce filing was obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press. Lawyers for the couple said it contains boilerplate language common to all no-fault divorce petitions filed in Pennsylvania.

The series follows Jon and Kate Gosselin as they raise their eight young children, including 8-year-old twins and sextuplets who just turned 5.

Monday night's show, in which the couple announced their separation and divorce, drew a record audience of 10.6 million viewers.

Attorneys for both Jon and Kate Gosselin said Tuesday that the couple lived together on their Berks County compound until recently.

"They have been living 'separate and apart' just within the last week or two," said Jon's attorney, Charles Meyer, using a term from the divorce petition.

The court document does not explain what led to the split. But in a statement released to the media, Kate asserted that "Jon's activities" over the weekend had left her "no choice but to file legal procedures in order to protect myself and our children." She did not elaborate. Both Jon and Kate deny tabloid accusations that they cheated on each other.

"To be honest, I was hurt by Kate's statement about the divorce," Jon countered Tuesday in his own release. "I have always done everything I can to protect our family. This weekend, I was home with the kids for four days, just being a dad. No nannies, just the kids and me."

He added that while "emotions are running high for both of us right now," he hopes to "resolve things amicably."

The couple plan to spend equal time with their children at the $1.1 million house they moved into last year, with Kate staying elsewhere when he has custody and Jon making other living arrangements when it's her turn, according to the statement.

Kate's lawyer, Cheryl Young, said Tuesday that the couple has already started negotiating the terms of the divorce.

Jon & Kate take a break

NEW YORK (AP)—Jon and Kate Gosselin are barely speaking.

They're separating and getting a divorce—the latest twist on their hit TLC series, "Jon & Kate Plus 8."

They couldn't even see eye-to-eye on where to install their children's new playhouses out in the yard, as viewers witnessed on Monday night's show.

But there's one thing Jon and Kate can agree on: The reality series that has made them stars, along with plaguing their family with tabloid scrutiny and scandalmongering, will continue.

Will viewers agree to keep watching?

They watched in record-breaking numbers Monday. The audience of 10.6 million beat the huge "Jon & Kate" season premiere a month ago by 800,000 viewers.

In separate on-camera segments, the Gosselins clearly sized up the show as a good thing for them as well as for their kids—5-year-old sextuplets and 8-year-old twins, who both parents repeatedly identify as their top priority.

And while retaining their expansive home in southeastern Pennsylvania, the estranged couple seemed reconciled to a future of taking turns living there with their children.

"We interview separately, we'll film different things," Jon explained on Monday's episode. "Me and the kids, her and the kids."

You Light Up My Life' writer accused of NYC rapes

NEW YORK (AP)—The Oscar-winning composer and director behind "You Light Up My Life" raped 11 women he lured to his apartment with the promise of a starring role in a movie, prosecutors said at his arraignment Tuesday.

The women read an online ad placed by the director, Joseph Brooks, applied for the audition "and thought this was their chance to become a big star," prosecutor Lisa Friel said.

Instead, once the women were in Brooks' Manhattan apartment, he plied them with wine and forcibly raped them or used threats and coercive behavior to make them have sex with him, prosecutors said.

The scrawny Brooks, 71, denied the accusations. He pleaded not guilty in Manhattan's state Supreme Court, where he was arraigned on a 91-count indictment charging him with rape, criminal sexual act, sexual abuse, assault and other charges. He faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted of first-degree rape.

Justice Charles Solomon set bail at $500,000 bond or $250,000 cash bail and gave Brooks until Thursday to post it. The judge told Brooks not to leave town without letting the court know.

Brooks won the Oscar for Best Original Song for the 1977 ballad "You Light Up My Life." He also wrote and directed the "You Light Up My Life" movie, about a comedian who has a one-night stand with a director.

District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said Brooks used his Hollywood credentials on the Craigslist classified ads Web site to attract the victims, aged 18 to 30. He said Brooks' ad specified attractive young women for a starring role in a movie.

Morgenthau said nine of the 11 women were from the Portland, Ore., and Seattle areas and the others were from California and Florida. He said Brooks paid to fly 10 of the women, who didn't know each other, to New York.

He said Brooks' scheme, which ran from at least 2005 to 2008, was enabled by his personal assistant, Shawni Lucier, who helped pick the victims, interviewed them, arranged their travel and made them feel comfortable.

He said that when the women's mothers called, Lucier, of Federal Way, Wash., would assure them their daughters were fine. When Brooks was ready to strike, he said, Lucier would leave the apartment "knowing what the end result would be."

AP

Oscar winning songwriter and director Joseph Brooks is led by police in handcuffs from a Harlem precinct, Tuesday, June 23, 2009, in New York.

Brooks became a suspect after one woman went to a hospital and reported what had happened and another complained to authorities in February and March 2008, prosecutors said.

Assistant District Attorney Maxine Rosenthal, the lead prosecutor, said she found other victims by searching Brooks' and Lucier's computers and cold-calling women whose names she saw.

"We have records from his and his assistant's computers that connect him to these women," she said.

There might be another seven or eight victims, she said.

Brooks' lawyer, Jeff Hoffman, said his client "told me he didn't do any of these things." He said Brooks, who suffered a stroke in 2008, "will have faith in the justice system."

Lucier, 42, was indicted on nine counts of criminal facilitation and is expected to return from Washington and surrender to authorities in New York City next week, Morgenthau said. She has no attorney in New York and didn't immediately return a telephone message seeking comment Tuesday.

Reality romance cursed? Check out the track record

In case you live under a boulder, Jon and Kate Gosselin of TLC's "Jon & Kate Plus 8" are splitting up. The Gosselin divorce, after 10 years of marriage and eight kids, is nothing new in the world of reality TV, where romances have crumbled on—and off—camera. Here's a look at some other notable breakups:

NICK LACHEY AND JESSICA SIMPSON

This golden couple became household names on MTV's "Newlyweds," playing the role of adoringly patient husband and adorably ditsy wife. They became tabloid fodder as their 3-year marriage soured, rumors of infidelity swirled and fans cried, "We want the truth!" In a crude awakening for those who believe in "reality" love, Simpson filed for divorce in late 2005.

JASON MESNICK AND MELISSA RYCROFT

Mesnick flipped fans' worlds upside when he dumped winner Rycroft for the runner-up, Molly Malaney. Rycroft moved on to "Dancing With the Stars"—a giant leap forward for her celebrity status. She can also take pleasure in rewatching the unintentionally hilarious "Bachelor" scene in which Mesnick sobs dramatically over a balcony. You dodged a bullet there, Melissa.

HULK AND LINDA HOGAN

After three seasons, the VH1 series "Hogan Knows Best" ended for good in 2007 as the wrestler's family life took a dark turn. Supposedly, the Hulk cheated on Linda, who slapped down divorce papers and promptly began dating a 19-year-old version of her husband. Daughter Brooke Hogan has since gotten out the house—and her own reality show/trainwreck "Brooke Knows Best."

DAVE NAVARRO AND CARMEN ELECTRA

OK, this union seemed built to last—and not because rocker Navarro and hottie Electra documented their wedded bliss for an MTV show called "'Till Death Do Us Part: Carmen & Dave." But because they seem like good people who could make it work (despite their rocky romantic track records). Sadly, they called it quits in 2006 after more than two years of marriage.

COUNT AND COUNTESS DE LESSEPS

This split happened off camera but grabbed gossip headlines. Countess LuAnn de Lesseps, one of the cast members on Bravo's "The Real Housewives of New York," confirmed her separation from Count Alexandre de Lesseps in March, something the catty series didn't catch. After 16 years on wife duty, the Countess-turned-etiquette author will keep her title and, presumably, her dignity.

HEF AND THE "GIRLS NEXT DOOR"

Hugh Hefner had three times the heartache last year when his closest girlfriends—Holly Madison, Bridget Marquardt and Kendra Wilkinson, who now has a bunny in the oven—dumped him and moved on to other opportunities. The Playboy mogul has since replaced them with 19-year-old twins and a busty blonde named Crystal.

PAT AND BILL LOUD

1973's "An American Family" has been regarded as the granddaddy of reality TV, when son Lance Loud came out of the closet before millions. But it was really a documentary, and as the 12-part series unfolded, viewers caught the very public dissolution of a marriage. Pat, cold as steel, informed her cheating husband Bill that she was divorcing him. ***(AP)***

Surrogate makes Parker, Broderick parents again

AP

In this April 27, 2009 file photo, actors Matthew Broderick and Sarah Jessica Parker attend the premiere of "Wonderful World" during the 2009 Tribeca Film Festival, in New York.

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick are the proud parents of twin girls delivered by a surrogate mother, a publicist said Tuesday, following a pregnancy that proceeded less than smoothly.

The girls were born Monday afternoon at an Ohio hospital, publicist Simon Halls said. Marion Loretta Elwell Broderick weighed 5 pounds and 11 ounces, and Tabitha Hodge Broderick weighed 6 pounds.

Hodge and Elwell are family names on Parker's side, Halls said.

"The babies are doing beautifully and the entire family is over the moon," Halls said in a statement.

Parker, the 44-year-old star of the TV show and film "Sex and the City," had complained last month to "Access Hollywood" that the surrogate's telephone and computer had been hacked into and that the woman had received threats.

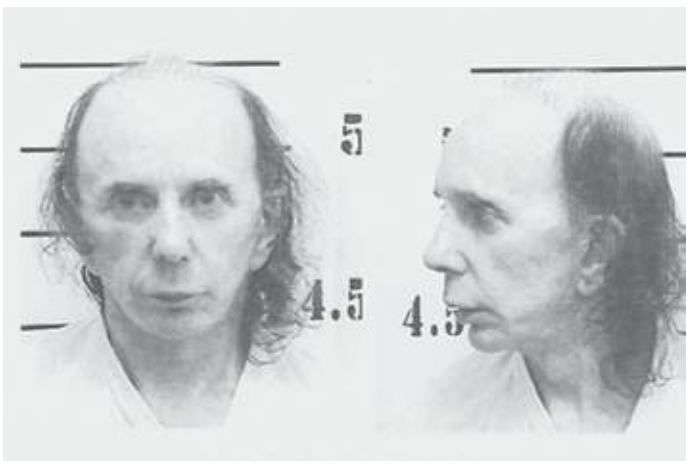
Authorities also are investigating whether two police chiefs burglarized the surrogate's home in the eastern Ohio town of Martins Ferry so they could sell photos and other information to a tabloid.

The burglars were after "pictures, phone message, all those things" at the home of the surrogate, Michelle Ross, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press last week, speaking on condition of anonymity because no charges had been filed.

A spokeswoman for East Ohio Regional Hospital in Martins Ferry would not comment on reports that the twins were born there.

Parker and Broderick, her 47-year-old husband and fellow actor, had confirmed they were expecting twin daughters by a surrogate. They had been unable to conceive since Parker gave birth to a son, who is now 6.

Spector in 'sensitive needs' area of Calif. prison



AP

This Friday, June 5, 2009 photo released by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation shows music producer Phil Spector in prison in Kern County, Calif. On Monday, June 23, 2009, Spector was moved to a "sensitive needs facility" in California's largest state prison to serve his sentence for murdering actress Lana Clarkson.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Music legend Phil Spector has been assigned to a "sensitive needs facility" in California's largest state prison to serve his sentence for murdering an actress.

Spector was taken Monday to the California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison at Corcoran, where 6,919 other inmates are housed, corrections spokeswoman Terry Thornton said.

She said Spector was assigned to the sensitive needs facility rather than general population. He doesn't have a cellmate.

As a medium security inmate, Spector can make some requests for items he wants in his cell, and his wife acknowledges her husband is already creating a list.

"He wants a TV and an iPod or something like that for listening to music," Rachelle Spector said Tuesday. "And he would like to be able to receive e-mail."

Prison Lt. Stephen Smith said Spector's notoriety probably got him into the sensitive needs facility. He said the typical inmate there needs protection after dropping out of a gang.

Spector, 69, is serving 19 years to life for the fatal shooting of actress Lana Clarkson at his castle-like home in Alhambra in 2003. He was convicted of second-degree murder in April after the first trial ended with a mistrial.

Rachelle Spector said she was relieved her husband was out of North Kern State Prison, where he has been undergoing evaluation.

She said he wrote a letter alleging abuse at the prison such as being forced to sleep naked on the floor for two nights and to eat out of a bowl with his hands "like a dog."

Thornton said the prison does not mistreat inmates and the actions described by Rachelle Spector "would be a violation of policies and laws." She said, however, any report of misconduct would be investigated.

The prison near Fresno has housed other entertainment figures. Actor Robert Downey Jr. served time there in 1999 for a probation violation in a drug conviction and wound up counseling other inmates before he was released.

Coroner: Pain killer killed ex-Wilco member

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (AP)—Former Wilco guitarist Jay Bennett died of an overdose of a pain killer, a coroner said Tuesday, and authorities are viewing his death as accidental.

Toxicology tests showed the 45-year-old musician died from an overdose of fentanyl, Champaign County Coroner Duane Northrup said in a brief news release that noted the drug is found in patches commonly prescribed to treat chronic pain.

The release did not indicate whether Bennett had used such a patch but Northrup told The (Champaign) News-Gazette that Bennett had a patch containing fentanyl on his back when he died May 24 after being found unresponsive in his home in Urbana, 110 miles south of Chicago.

Northrup did not return a call from The Associated Press and his office declined to immediately provide a copy of Bennett's autopsy, saying the investigation remains open.

Several companies recalled fentanyl patches last year after discovering that some leaked, causing labored breathing and possible overdose. There was no indication Bennett had used a recalled patch.

In a recent posting on his MySpace page, Bennett wrote that he was getting ready for hip replacement surgery after years of pain.

"As time has passed my mobility has continued to erode, to the extent that, for quite some time now, it has even been difficult to sit at the computer for more than just a few minutes," Bennett wrote in a posting dated April 25.

Members of Bennett's family could not immediately be located for comment. There was no immediate response to an e-mail sent to his record company.

Bennett worked as a sound engineer and played instruments for Wilco from 1994 to 2001.

He sued Wilco lead singer Jeff Tweedy in early May. Bennett claimed he was owed royalties for songs during his seven years with the group.

After learning of Bennett's death Tweedy said Bennett made significant contributions to Wilco and said he would be remembered "as a truly unique and gifted human being."

Bennett was born in the Chicago suburb of Rolling Meadows and graduated from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

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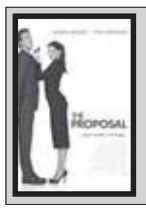
Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen
Thursday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox
Sci-Fi Action • Rated PG-13

Synopsis
The battle for Earth has ended but the battle for the universe has just begun. After returning to Cybertron, Starscream assumes command of the Decepticons, and has decided to return to Earth with force. The Autobots believing that peace was possible finds out that Megatron's dead body has been stolen from the US Military by Skorpinox and revives him using his own spark. Now Megatron is back seeking revenge and with Starscream and more Decepticon reinforcements on the way,

Year One
Thursday 1:10 4:15 7:30
Jack Black, Michael Cera
Prehistoric Fantasy, Comedy • Rated PG-13

Synopsis
Jack Black and Michael Cera headline Harold Ramis' Stone Age comedy about a pair of lazy hunter-gatherers who embark on a wild journey through the ancient world after being banished from their primitive village. Oliver Platt, David Cross, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, and Vinnie Jones co-star.

★ ★ ★



The Proposal
Thursday 1:15 4:10 7:15
Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG-13

Synopsis
Sandra Bullock stars in the romantic comedy The Proposal, as a Canadian immigrant who creates a demanding and difficult work environment for her subordinates at the office. When the news arrives that she's about to be deported to the Great White North, she rushes into a marriage of convenience with her young assistant (played by Ryan Reynolds) to prevent such a catastrophe from occurring. 27 Dresses' Anne Fletcher directs from a script by Peter Chiarelli for Touchstone Pictures.

Taking of Pelham 123
Thursday 1:20 4:20 7:05
Denzel Washington, John Travolta
Thriller • Rated R

Up
Thursday 1:05 4:05 7:10
Ed Asner, Jordan Nagai
Comedy, Adventure, Family • Rated PG

The Hangover
Thursday 1:25 4:30 7:25
Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms
Comedy • Rated R

Night at the Museum 2
Thursday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Den Stiller, Amy Adams
Comedy, Sequel • Rated PG

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Public help sought in 1976 slaying of singer's ex-wife

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles County sheriff's homicide detectives on Tuesday asked the public's help in solving the 1976 rape and killing of the ex-wife of The Righteous Brothers singer Bill Medley.

Karen Klaas was attacked Jan. 30, 1976, as she returned to her home in Hermosa Beach, a quiet community on the shore of Santa Monica Bay.

Raped and strangled with her pantyhose, the 32-year-old never regained consciousness and died in a hospital a few days later.

Two witnesses spotted the suspected killer leaving the house. The shaggy-haired, bearded man in a trench coat and blue jeans was never seen again.

Authorities recently reactivated the case. The beach town has only about one homicide every five years, Hermosa police Lt. Tom Thompson said, and Klaas' slaying remains its longest enduring mystery.

In the 1990s, technology had advanced to where detectives could get a DNA profile of Klaas' killer, but it hasn't matched anyone in the national DNA database. Such matches have been responsible for recent breaks in high-profile cases including an arrest in a serial killing case and the arrest of a Los Angeles police detective accused of killing a woman in 1986.

Investigators have re-interviewed everyone from the original Klaas files in hopes of triggering a memory, but so far have come up blank, homicide Sgt. Tom Harris said. "We start all over ... see if we can identify people that hadn't been contacted before," Harris said.

Klaas had been married to Medley, half of the duo best known for "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'" and "Unchained Melody".

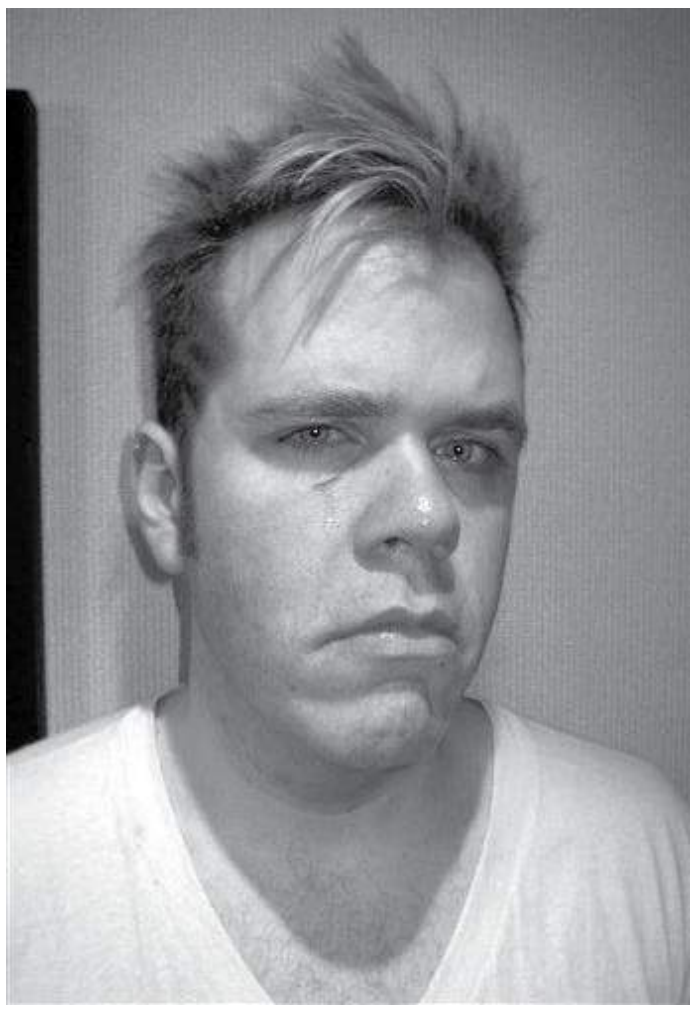
Perez Hilton not backing down for using gay slur

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Perez Hilton isn't apologizing for using a gay slur, and says he's never claimed to be a spokesperson for the gay community.

The celebrity blogger said in a statement Tuesday that he will continue to say things upsetting to gay and straight people alike. The comments came after the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation called for Hilton to apologize for unleashing the word during an altercation with Black Eyed Peas frontman will.i.am.

Hilton said he felt physically threatened and sought the most hurtful thing he could say during the confrontation at a Toronto nightclub early Monday. Police charged the band's tour manager with assault for allegedly punching Hilton.

Hilton said he did what he thought best to stand up for himself.



In this image released by Perez Hilton, celebrity blogger Perez Hilton is shown with an injury beneath his eye, Monday, June 22, 2009, in Toronto.

No more 'Celebrity' for Patti Blagojevich

CHICAGO (AP)—Illinois' former first lady won't be queen of the jungle.

Patti Blagojevich on Tuesday was voted off NBC's reality series "I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!" She lasted 23 days in the Costa Rican jungle as a replacement for her husband, who was barred by a judge from leaving the country amid his pending corruption charges.

Patti Blagojevich said during Tuesday's episode that her favorite moments on the series include being tossed into a river and making her way out, and speaking to her family over the Internet.

Former Gov. Rod Blagojevich has pleaded not guilty to wide-ranging federal charges, including attempting to sell an appointment to Barack Obama's Senate seat.

Patti Blagojevich has said she did the show because of her family's finances.

T.R. Knight will star in a production of 'Parade'

NEW YORK (AP)—There is life for T.R. Knight after "Grey's Anatomy."

The actor, who announced last week he was leaving the ABC series, will star in the musical "Parade" at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. Opening night is set for Oct. 4.

"Parade" is based on the true story of Leo Frank, lynched for the murder of a young girl who worked in the factory he managed. Knight will play Frank.

The musical, which features a book by Alfred Uhry and a score by Jason Robert Brown, was first seen at New York's Lincoln Center in 1999.

The Center Theatre Group production, directed by Rob Ashford, comes from London's Donmar Warehouse.

In this Aug. 16, 2008 file photo, actor T.R. Knight poses on the press line at the 3rd annual "Hot in Hollywood" charity event benefiting the AIDS Healthcare Foundation in Los Angeles.

AP

'View' co-host Hasselbeck is accused of plagiarism

BOSTON (AP)—Elisabeth Hasselbeck, a co-host of ABC's "The View," has been accused of plagiarism.

A lawsuit in federal court in Massachusetts alleges that Hasselbeck lifted "word for word" content from a book on celiac disease written by a self-published author on Cape Cod.

Hasselbeck's book, "The G-Free Diet: A Gluten-Free Survival Guide," has appeared over the past month on several best-seller lists.

Author Susan Hassett filed the lawsuit Monday, saying she sent Hasselbeck a copy of her "Living With Celiac Disease" book as a courtesy after the TV celebrity disclosed she had the illness last year.

The lawsuit says Hasselbeck's book reproduces lists of grains containing gluten along with scientific names of the grains.

Hasselbeck's book "includes dozens of paraphrased as well as word for word regurgitations of phrases" from Hassett's book, the lawsuit claims, but it doesn't cite specific examples.

The lawsuit also says the books have a similar organization and chapter format.

Hasselbeck said in a statement that the allegations are baseless and she worked "diligently and tirelessly" on the book and was disappointed by efforts to discredit her work.

In this Sept. 12, 2008, file photo, TV host Elisabeth Hasselbeck arrives to the US Weekly 25 Most Stylish New Yorkers party in New York.

AP

Layoff is a blow to man's self-esteem and marriage

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have started a promising career I thoroughly enjoy. But my husband, "Derrick," has been laid off from his job due to the economy.

I love Derrick with all my heart. I hate to see him hurting. I keep reminding him that he's still a wonderful person and a great worker. I tell him God is watching over us and will help him; it seems to be doing no good. Losing his job appears to have damaged his self-esteem as a man and, with it, our ability to connect. My husband is distant all the time.

I desperately want to help, but I'm getting scared, too. I realize it is my turn to be strong for us now. Any words of advice?

PRAYING IN NEBRASKA

DEAR PRAYING: Love him, support him and encourage him. Remind him that losing his job wasn't his fault, and all he has to do is look at the news to know that he is far from alone.

Your husband will need to network to find out what jobs are out there for people with his skills. If that doesn't pan out, he may need to explore retraining for a career other than the one he had planned. Believe me, you both have my sympathy.

There will be an end to this recession eventually, and it's important that you not lose sight of that fact. It is also important that your husband not isolate himself. The more people he is in touch with, the better his chances for hearing about an opportunity.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I just returned home from a doctor's follow-up appointment with a specialist (not my regular doctor). My appointment was for 1:15. I was finally seen at 2:30. Can you guess how long I was with him? The visit lasted a grand total of seven minutes. It's a good thing he didn't take my blood pressure because it would have been through the roof.

I understand there can be unforeseen issues with patients, but shouldn't the front desk staff inform the patient when he or she walks in about a delay? And how long is appropriate for a doctor to keep a patient waiting? Is it appropriate for a patient to demand to be seen? Can you issue an ultimatum such as, "I need to leave in 10 minutes"?

SICK OF WAITING IN DENVER

DEAR SICK OF WAITING: When you arrived for your appointment, you should have asked the receptionist if the doctor was running late, and if so, approximately how far behind he was. That way, you could have stepped out for a cup of coffee if you wished.

In my opinion, if a doctor is running more than 15 to 20 minutes late, the next patient should be warned. However, making demands or issuing ultimatums is not appropriate. A more effective way to deal with it would be to call the doctor's office an hour ahead of time to see if he's on schedule.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I recently attended a spaghetti dinner. Is there a proper way to eat long noodles, or should one just put in a forkful and slurp up the noodles until they are gone?

USING MY NOODLE IN DULUTH

DEAR USING YOUR NOODLE: Spaghetti can be a challenge, but consuming it by starting at one end of the noodle and sucking it into one's mouth is a distinct no-no because the sound can disrupt conversation. There are, however, exceptions to this in other cultures—where noodles represent longevity and to cut them would be bad luck.

According to Emily Post, the proper way to eat spaghetti in our culture is "to hold the fork in one hand and a large spoon in the other. Take a few strands of pasta on the fork and place the tines against the bowl of the spoon, twirling the fork to neatly wrap the strands.

"For those who haven't mastered the art of twirling the pasta strands, there's the simple cutting method. Just be sure not to cut the whole plateful at one time; instead use your knife and fork to cut small portions."

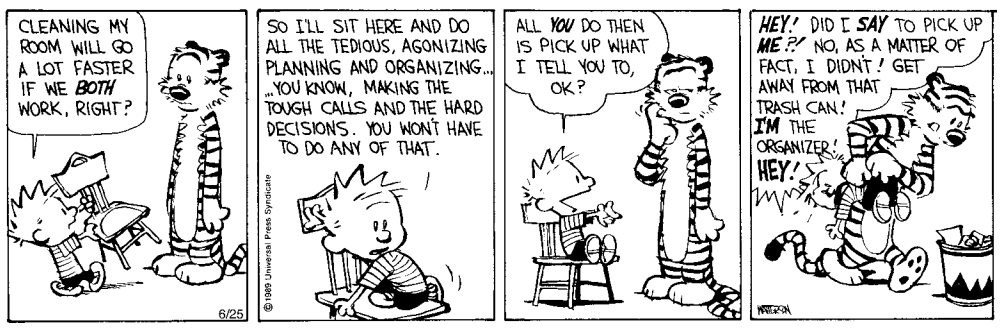
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CLEANING MY ROOM WILL GO A LOT FASTER IF WE BOTH WORK, RIGHT?
SO I'LL SIT HERE AND DO ALL THE TEDIOUS, AGONIZING PLANNING AND ORGANIZING... ...YOU KNOW, MAKING THE TOUGH CALLS AND THE HARD DECISIONS. YOU WON'T HAVE TO DO ANY OF THAT.
ALL YOU DO THEN IS PICK UP WHAT I TELL YOU TO, OK?
HEY! DID I SAY TO PICK UP ME?! NO, AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DIDN'T! GET AWAY FROM THAT TRASH CAN! I'M THE ORGANIZER! HEY!
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

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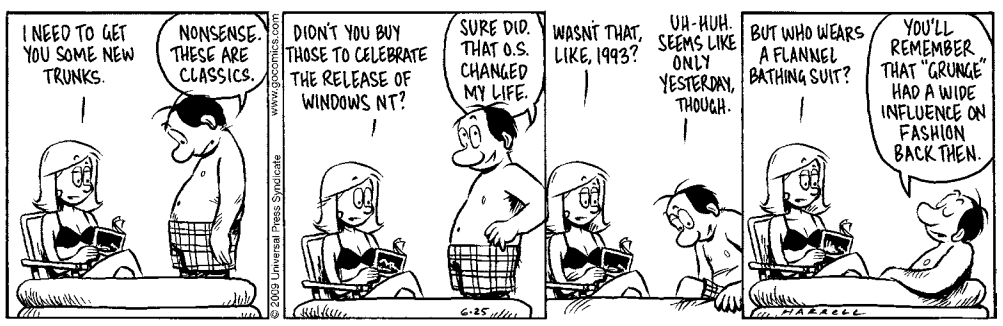
By Bryan Basset


I NEED TO GET YOU SOME NEW TRUNKS.
NONSENSE. THESE ARE CLASSICS.
DIDN'T YOU BUY THOSE TO CELEBRATE THE RELEASE OF WINDOWS NT?
SURE DID. THAT O.S. CHANGED MY LIFE.
WASN'T THAT, LIKE, 1993?
UH-HUH. SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY, THOUGH.
BUT WHO WEARS A FLANNEL BATHING SUIT?
YOU'LL REMEMBER THAT "GRUNGE" HAD A WIDE INFLUENCE ON FASHION BACK THEN.
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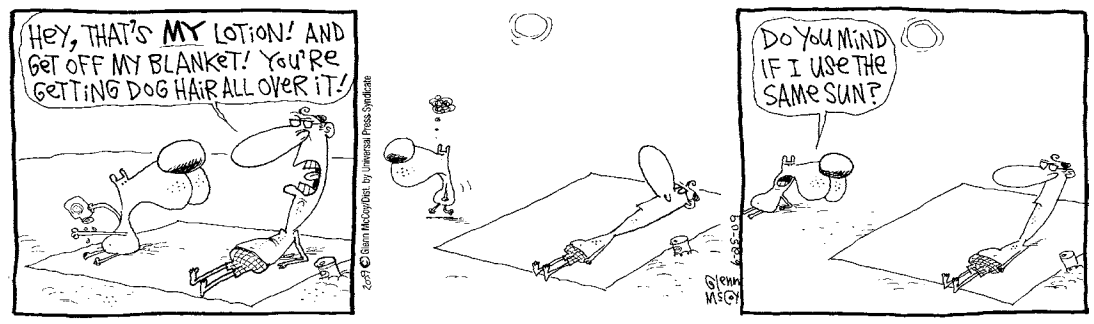
6-25
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HEY, THAT'S MY LOTION! AND GET OFF MY BLANKET! YOU'RE GETTING DOG HAIR ALL OVER IT!
DO YOU MIND IF I USE THE SAME SUN?
2-99 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
6-25

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

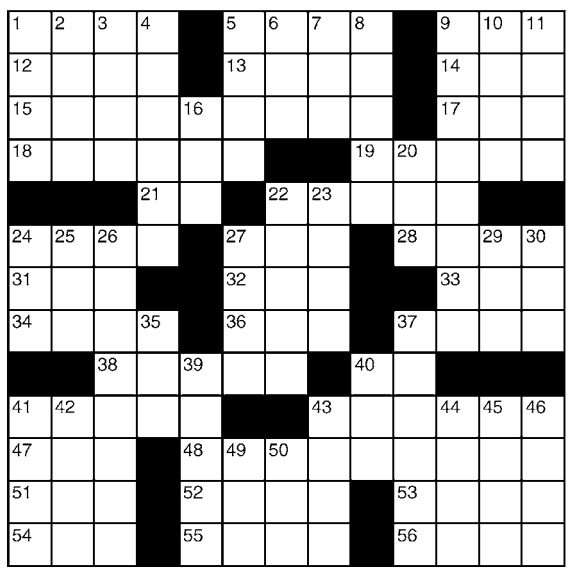
ACROSS
1 Serve tea
5 Nibble away at
9 Once around the track
12 Teensy bit
13 Easy gait
14 Swelling aid
15 Trattoria order
17 Support system?
18 Off the boat
19 Harder to find
21 Celeb-oriented magazine
22 Tin star
24 Datum
27 Solidify
28 Elevator name
31 Conceit
32 Adaptable truck
33 Astaire specialty
34 Make one's way
36 Foolhardy goddess
37 Peru's capital
38 Manhattan Project scientist
40 Lindbergh book
41 Musical show
43 Piece maker?
47 Cistern
48 "Lucia di Lammermoor" composer
51 Performance
52 First victim
53 Midday
54 Muumuu accessory
55 Mob scene
56 Woman of the knight?

DOWN
1 Tower city
2 "My bad"
3 Hexagonal state
4 Mixture
5 Merriment
6 "To be or — ..."
7 Likely
8 Odd
9 Musical texts
10 Farm fraction
11 Bartlett, for one
16 Day pts.
20 Past
22 Playwright Ugo
23 Sheltered
24 A mere handful
25 Census statistic
26 New Year's Eve mess
27 "Where America's Day Begins"
29 "How Dry —"
30 Resort
35 Aachen article
37 Myth
39 Speeder's worry
40 Oz VIP
41 Elliptical
42 Wear a rut in the rug
43 Leave at the altar
44 Old portico
45 Bit for 38-Across
46 Sommelier's suggestion
49 Kimono closer
50 Ultra-modernist

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	I	S	C	■	L	A	M	■	A	P	S	E
A	N	T	E	■	A	L	I	■	C	H	A	T
S	C	A	L	A	W	A	G	■	T	O	R	N
S	H	R	I	L	L	■	H	E	R	N	I	A
■	■	■	A	B	E	■	T	R	E	E	■	■
P	O	M	■	A	S	H	■	A	S	T	I	N
D	I	A	L	■	S	I	R	■	S	A	K	E
A	L	I	E	N	■	M	E	T	■	G	E	T
■	■	■	N	A	I	L	■	L	A	P	■	■
C	O	D	D	L	E	■	A	T	E	A	S	E
O	G	R	E	■	M	I	X	E	D	B	A	G
A	L	A	R	■	O	D	E	■	A	L	S	O
L	E	G	S	■	N	O	D	■	L	E	S	S

Yesterday's answer 6-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Scott Terra, 22; Phyllis George, 60; Jimmie Walker, 62; Carly Simon, 64

Happy Birthday: You may want to take a risk or entertain the thought of trying something new but, before you do, secure what you already have. Be smart and refuse to be railroaded or misled. Be careful, frugal and set a budget that will enable you to feel less stress next year when you have far greater opportunities come your way. Your numbers are 1, 13, 19, 26, 33, 39, 46

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*: You need to spend more time developing a skill, hobby or talent. Doing things with children or friends will allow you to resolve some issues that have been bothering you for some time. Compassion and understanding will be required. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: Don't get involved in a fighting match. Being stubborn will not help matters. Find a way to compromise or you will ruin the upcoming weekend. Now is not the time to make assumptions. Get your facts straight. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: You'll be able to clear up any unfinished business if you put your heart into what you are doing. Conversations will help you clarify what needs to be done to make things better both at home and at work. Don't let a private matter be used against you. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*: Someone will put pressure on you to do things that you don't want to do. It's time to put yourself first. Domestic plans that will add comfort to your life should be your intent. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*: You'll be emotionally torn by the events that take place if you haven't cleared up misunderstandings that have plagued you. You must sort through these matters if you don't want to suffer personal, emotional and financial loss. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: Plan a getaway and you'll be sure to have a good time and meet some interesting people. Don't worry if you get a little tongue-tied -- you are better at listening, observing and learning than you are taking the stage and teaching. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: Take a position of leadership and you will successfully get the things you want done out of the way. This is your chance to show your talents. Fund raise, volunteer or just help others in whatever way possible, but don't let someone you are fond of cost you. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: You are likely to act on impulse if you don't restrain yourself. Emotional matters will cause you to make irreversible mistakes. Put your efforts into a creative endeavor. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: You'll be torn between what you should do and what you want to do. If you work quickly you may be able to take care of both your responsibilities and your desires. An original approach will interest someone who will be willing to help you out. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: A love relationship will lead to an interesting twist of fate and will help you make a decision you've been toying with for some time. Serious action can be taken with confidence. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: You'll be drawn to someone you find interesting. Don't be too quick to let your full intentions be known. Let your friendship grow. There is someone looking out for you. Trust this person's judgment. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: You may find it difficult to move forward with a work-related matter because you lack the information you need to complete what's being asked of you. Don't mix your personal and business life or you will have to explain some situations that might make you uncomfortable. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have a way with words and are open and original. You are intent on learning. You are inventive but practical, forceful but compassionate.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3				5				
	4				9	3	1	
		9			2		8	
						2	3	
9								1
	6	5						
	8		6			4		
	5	7	8				9	
				3				5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Wednesday's SUDOKU Answer

4	8	2	6	3	1	9	7	5
7	6	3	9	5	8	4	1	2
5	9	1	7	4	2	3	8	6
3	4	9	2	8	6	7	5	1
8	1	5	3	9	7	6	2	4
6	2	7	5	1	4	8	9	3
9	5	4	8	2	3	1	6	7
2	3	6	1	7	9	5	4	8
1	7	8	4	6	5	2	3	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/24

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH (PART 1) **Solution: 6 letters**

M	S	S	A	M	A	H	A	B	I	(R)	C	D	L	E
A	O	A	T	S	J	O	I	N	(U)	S	L	I	G	C
L	I	N	M	H	C	R	D	(L)	U	R	C	L	O	A
T	S	L	A	O	G	I	(E)	M	O	N	A	N	V	E
A	E	I	A	R	A	I	M	W	U	N	S	O	E	P
T	R	B	G	R	C	I	R	O	O	E	E	D	R	S
N	U	E	S	U	T	H	C	I	N	P	U	N	N	E
E	T	R	R	S	Y	S	T	S	K	O	D	O	M	I
M	U	T	E	A	Z	A	U	L	S	E	C	L	E	L
D	F	Y	B	A	N	S	N	A	A	U	N	E	N	B
N	N	R	M	R	E	Q	U	A	L	I	T	Y	T	M
E	O	B	E	L	I	Z	E	N	A	R	C	A	A	E
M	I	T	M	E	S	R	E	D	A	E	L	O	T	S
A	N	T	I	G	U	A	D	D	E	T	A	T	S	S
I	U	G	A	N	D	A	E	F	O	R	U	M	A	A

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Amendment, Antigua, Assemblies, Australia, Bahamas, Belize, Consensus, Council, Dues, Economics, Equality, Forum, Free, Future, Goals, Government, Guyana, India, International, Join, Kenya, Leaders, Liberty, London, Malta, Members, Monarch, Peace, Power, Rights, Rule, Samoa, Social, State, Status, Summits, Trade, Uganda, Union, World, Zambia

Yesterday's Answer: Shorthand

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #8** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 p&h ($14.20 total) each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Press Syndicate, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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WHATZIT Solution: Rainy season

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in this section

Marilyn Sokau Aldan
P. 0. Box 503546
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 287-8656

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of the Apointment of Marilyn Aldan as Guardian of the Estate of Roseanne Sokau Aldan, Katelyn Teri Lydia Sokau Aldan, Tommy John Sokau Aldan, Franklin Markuson Adour Sokau Aldan Minor Children by Marilyn Sokau Aldan Petitioner	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0297 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor children by Marilyn Sokau Aldan, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo on the 10th day of July, 2009 at 9 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court
By: /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD., Plaintiff, vs. JOSEPH S. ROMOLOR and TOIKO K. ROMOLOR, Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0359** **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order of Sale issued by the Court in this matter on June 10, 2009, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Lot 001 G 57, as more particularly described in Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 03 the original of which was recorded 20 MAR 1986 as Document No. 86-0510 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, Description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on 17th, July, 2009, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., at Carlsmith Building, Isa Drive, Capitol Hill, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950-5241. The sale will be opened to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: Saipan, MP, June 22, 2009.

/s/ Vincent J. Seman
VINCENT J. SEMAN, F0361
Attorneys for Plaintiff

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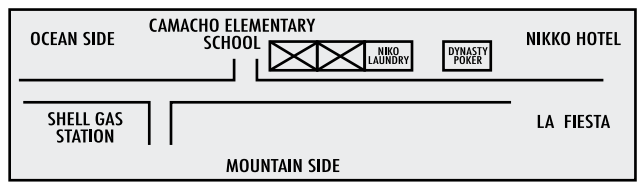

Pls. Contact Emer at Tel. No. 287-0693/233-0234

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Requirements:
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The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is pleased to announce that a Summer Internship Program is available for Engineering, Architectural and Accounting students. Applicants must have completed 1 year of University level courses from a U.S. accredited university.

The Summer Internship program is for approximately 2 months. Interested students are encouraged to apply at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd floor Arrival Wing) or CPA's Human Resource Office (2nd Floor Departure Wing) of the Saipan International Airport, or it may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp

EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Safin's last Wimbledon ends with 1st-round loss

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—It seemed fitting, somehow, that two-time major champion Marat Safin's always-turbulent relationship with Wimbledon would end this way.

A first-round departure.

Against the unheralded Jesse Levine, a 133rd-ranked qualifier from Boca Raton, Fla., who began Tuesday with an 0-2 tour-level record in 2009.

And with a mangled racket and plenty of kicking and screaming, including a couple of arguments with the chair umpire, then a postmatch parting shot at a line judge Safin called "a little bit too blind."

Safin used to rant about disliking tennis on grass, and he once complained about the high price and low quality of food at the players' restaurant at the All England Club. Well, he doesn't have to worry about any of that again after bowing out in his final Wimbledon with a 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-4 loss to Levine.

After confirming this would be his last appearance at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament—Safin has vowed to retire at season's end—he was asked how he feels about being done with Wimbledon.

"Relieved," the 29-year-old Safin replied. "Pretty much relieved."

He's a former No. 1 player who won the 2000 U.S. Open and 2005 Australian Open, but a series of injuries slowed him recently. Still, Safin came to Wimbledon ranked 24th and seeded 14th, and had to be considered quite a favorite against Levine, who never had defeated anyone ranked better than 67th.

The 21-year-old Levine, who was born in Canada and moved to Florida at age 13, found Tuesday's experience "surreal."

"He's an amazing player, and I'm still kind of feeling weird right now that I just beat Safin, because I've always watched him play on TV," said Levine, who briefly played at the University of Florida before turning pro in 2007. "I just kind of went out there with nothing to lose and played some good tennis."

AP

Marat Safin of Russia reacts while playing Jesse Levine of U.S. during their first round singles match at Wimbledon, Tuesday, June 23, 2009.

Levine wasn't the only U.S. qualifier to pull off a surprise Tuesday: 17-year-old Melanie Oudin of Marietta, Ga., won a Grand Slam match for the first time, beating the 29th-seeded woman, Sybille Bammer, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

On a day that set a tournament attendance record of 45,955, everywhere you looked around the sun-soaked grounds, it seemed, someone or another from the United States was playing—and, for the most part, losing. No. 6-seeded Andy Roddick did beat Jeremy Chardy of France 6-3, 7-6 (3), 4-6, 6-3 with the help of 21 aces, but six other U.S. men in first-round action all exited the tournament: Robert Kendrick, Robby Ginepri, Bobby Reynolds, Wayne Odesnik, Kevin Kim and Rajeev Ram. American men went 3-2 on Monday, when No. 17 James Blake was the tournament's first seeded player to lose.

Taylor Dent—at Wimbledon for the first time since 2005 after two back operations—stuck around at least until Wednesday, because his match was suspended by darkness.

Twenty-two Grand Slam tournaments have come and gone without an American man taking home the trophy, dating to Roddick's victory at the 2003 U.S. Open, a drought that is the country's longest in the 41-year Open era.

Roddick twice was the runner-up at Wimbledon to Roger Federer, who is tied with Pete Sampras at a record 14 major titles. Still, Roddick doesn't mind if Federer and No. 3 Andy Murray of Britain—who beat Kendrick—are getting most of the attention.

"As far as who's talking about what, I don't really care," Roddick said. "You know, I just want to go out and win matches."

U.S. women have no such drought, thanks to the Williams sisters. Venus Williams, seeking a third consecutive Wimbledon title and sixth overall, beat Stefanie Voegele of Switzerland 6-3, 6-2. Williams' only real stumble came on the fifth point, when she lost her footing and sprawled on Centre Court. A couple of games later, she started a run of 14 consecutive points that put her in control.

"It's grass," she said. "You're going to slip sometimes."

Plenty did, too, including Roddick, Chardy and Kendrick. Even a ballkid skidded to a facedown fall on Centre Court.

Williams was joined in the second round by No. 1-seeded Dinara Safina (Safin's younger sister), 2006 Wimbledon champion Amelie Mauresmo and 2008 French Open champion Ana Ivanovic, who saved two match points. In a match between 18-year-old Caroline Wozniacki and 38-year-old Kimiko Date Krumm, the No. 9-seeded Wozniacki rallied to win 5-7, 6-3, 6-1. Date Krumm's Wimbledon debut came in 1989, a year before Wozniacki was born.

Levine was a teen when Safin burst onto the scene as a brash, big-hitting 20-year-old who knocked off Sampras to win the U.S. Open.

"I really had to ... focus on playing against the ball and not worrying about, 'Oh, wow, I'm playing against Marat Safin on the other side of the court,'" Levine said. "Because then things could have gotten a lot more interesting."

As is his wont, Safin made things interesting enough. In the early going, he broke his racket by spiking it on the court.

Leading 4-3 in the third-set tiebreaker, Safin hit a shot near a line that was ruled out. Afterward, Safin said: "Thanks for the guy who made the call. I want to say hello to him. Too bad that he was a little bit too blind."

In the fourth set, Safin told the chair umpire he could check for chalk on the ball to confirm a call. Rebuffed, Safin added: "So all players are stupid?"

Safin reached at least the semifinals at all four majors, including at Wimbledon last year, but he has been criticized for not living up to the potential stored in his 6-foot-4 frame - about 7 inches taller than Levine.

"In the history of tennis, everybody's an underachiever," Safin said. "Agassi should have been winning, I don't know, 15 Grand Slams. Sampras should have been winning 20 Grand Slams. Federer should be winning - already should have 25."

And what about you, Marat?

"I should probably have (won) a couple of more," he said, "but I'm pretty satisfied with what I did."

Milwaukee sends Jefferson to San Antonio in 4-player swap

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The Spurs acquired scoring swingman Richard Jefferson from Milwaukee in a four-player deal on Tuesday, giving San Antonio the extra offensive punch the aging former champions sorely needed.

The Spurs sent veterans Bruce Bowen, Kurt Thomas and Fabricio Oberto to the Bucks in exchange for the 29-year-old Jefferson, who averaged 19.6 points in his one season with the Bucks.

Milwaukee then dealt Oberto to the Pistons for forward Amir Johnson. The trades give the Bucks more financial flexibility, the Spurs a proven scorer and the Pistons a veteran big man at a lower cost than Johnson.

Spurs general manager R.C. Buford said Jefferson brings youth and health along with his high scoring. Jefferson hasn't missed a game the past two seasons and joins a team that has been the oldest in the NBA for several years.

"His age helps us transition our team into a new era," Buford said.

Spurs guard Tony Parker welcomed Jefferson into the fold, alongside Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili. San Antonio is coming off its shortest playoff run since 2000 and faded down the stretch with Duncan hobbled and Ginobili sidelined by injury.

"He's a great wing," said Parker, speaking to reporters before the trade for Jefferson became official Tuesday. "It's something we don't have on our team."

Milwaukee unloaded Jefferson's contract, which has two years and $29.2 million remaining. Jefferson became the Bucks' best offensive threat after Michael Redd and Andrew Bogut went down with season-ending injuries, but the Bucks' tight financial situation made a move necessary.

Milwaukee does not want to pay the NBA's luxury tax, which last year hit teams dollar-for-dollar once they reach $71.15 million in total payroll.

Redd, Bogut and Jefferson are scheduled to make more than $41 million combined this season.

The trade was a shock to at least one Bucks player: Charlie Villanueva posted "RJ traded to Spurs. Wow" on his Twitter account before the trade was official.

Bogut also chimed in, wishing Jefferson the best.

"Sad to see RJ go. He was a fun guy to be around and could play. We are building for the future, slow and steady. Patience grasshopper," Bogut posted on Twitter.

The deal actually might allow the Bucks to keep Ramon Sessions or Villanueva, since both are restricted free agents.

Bowen and Thomas give the Bucks a veteran group and neither is signed beyond the upcoming season.

Johnson, 22, is a young power forward and another option down low for Milwaukee.

Wizards send T-Wolves No. 5 *pick*

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Timberwolves are set to have one busy draft day.

The Timberwolves agreed to trade guards Randy Foye and Mike Miller to the Washington Wizards for the fifth overall draft pick and three players, leaving Minnesota with four first-round choices and plenty of ammunition to do even more wheeling and dealing.

Two NBA officials with knowledge of the deal confirmed that the trade had been agreed upon Tuesday night. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal had not been completed.

The deal would give Minnesota the fifth and sixth overall selections in Thursday's NBA draft, as well as forwards Etan Thomas, Darius Songaila and Oleksiy Pecherov.

Yahoo! Sports first reported the trade.

New Minnesota Timberwolves president David Kahn declined comment through a team spokesman on Tuesday night, perhaps because he may not be finished trading.

The Timberwolves also have the 18th and 28th selections in the first round, giving them the resources to potentially trade up even higher and go after either Spanish guard Ricky Rubio or Connecticut center Hasheem Thabeet.

Speaking after a prospect workout Tuesday morning before the deal had been reported, Kahn praised the 7-foot-3 Thabeet, who could give the team a sorely needed defensive presence next to Al Jefferson and Kevin Love up front.

"You could say that would complete our front line if we had somebody of that size and rim-protecting capability," Kahn said. "You could actually make an argument, and I'm not making that for me right now, but somebody could make that argument, that he would be the perfect fit."

Smoke screen? Difficult to say, given the Timberwolves have been searching for a formidable presence practically since they entered the league in 1989. Thabeet averaged 13.6 points, 10.8 rebounds and 4.2 blocks and was co-Big East player of the year.

The Wizards, unlike most lottery teams, feel they can afford to deal a high first-round draft pick because they're already adding a major impact player next season. Gilbert Arenas is expected to return at full strength after missing most of the last two seasons due to multiple knee surgeries, putting Washington in contention to return to the playoffs immediately despite coming off a 19-63 season that matched the worst 82-game record in franchise history.

The Wizards also have a plentiful supply of youngsters who are supposedly up-and-coming—Nick Young, JaVale McGee, Andray Blatche, Dominic McGuire—and are in need of more veteran poise in the locker room rather than another developing rookie.

Plus the deal with the Timberwolves gives them a veteran shooter in Miller and a young combo guard in Foye, who may benefit from a change of scenery.

Phillies rip Rays in World Series rematch

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — Chase Utley homered and drove in four runs Tuesday to help Philadelphia rout Tampa Bay 10-1 in the first regular-season meeting between the teams since last year's World Series.

Utley had a two-run double in the first inning and added his 16th homer in the fourth, a two-run shot off David Price (1-2) that made it 10-0.

Jamie Moyer (5-6) pitched six innings and John Mayberry, filling in for the injured Raul Ibanez, hit a three-run homer for the Phillies, who defeated the Rays in the World Series in five games.

Tampa Bay, which managed five hits off the 46-year-old Moyer and eight overall, scored on Jason Bartlett's fourth-inning single that extended the shortstop's career-best hitting streak to 17 games — one shy of the franchise record.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Chase Utley watches his fourth-inning, two-run home run off Tampa bay Rays pitcher David Price during an interleague baseball game Tuesday June 23, 2009 in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Braves 4, Yankees 0

At Atlanta, rookie Tommy Hanson won his third straight start and Brian McCann had two RBIs including a so lo homer as Atlanta threw consecutive shutouts for the first time in four years.

New York managed just four hits and left 12 runners on base as Wang Chien-ming (0-6) lost his sixth straight start.

In the Yankees' first visit to Turner Field since 2000, Atlanta's pitching staff combined for its first consecutive shutouts since June 21-22, 2005, when it beat Florida by a combined 13-0 score.

Red Sox 11, Nationals 3

At Washington, Jason Bay had four hits, including his 19th homer and a two-run single that helped break open the game in the eighth inning, and Jacoby Ellsbury's had the first two-triple game of his career and two singles.

In their first regular season visit to Washington since 1971 — when Boston great Ted Williams was managing the Senators — the Red Sox took the lead for good on Jason Varitek's sacrifice fly off Julian Tavarez (3-5) in the seventh. Manny Delcarmen (2-1) got the win in relief for the Red Sox, who have won 14 of 19 in June.

Tigers 5, Cubs 4

At Detroit, pinch-hitter Ryan Raburn hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning to lift Detroit to the seesaw win over Chicago.

Brandon Inge's two-run homer in the seventh put the Tigers ahead 3-2 and they were a strike away from taking the lead into the ninth, but Chicago's Micah Hoffpauir hit a go-ahead, two-run shot in the eighth off Joel Zumaya.

Carlos Marmol struck out the side in the eighth, setting up Kevin Gregg for a save opportunity. Gregg (2-2) got off to a poor start by walking Don Kelly on a full-count pitch. Raburn was hitting for Josh Anderson, who pinch ran for slumping slugger Magglio Ordonez.

Indians 5, Pirates 4

At Pittsburgh, Jhonny Peralta homered and drove in three runs to support rookie David Huff's eight shutout innings as Cleveland beat Pittsburgh to end six-game losing streak.

The Indians, who blew two five-run leads and a seven-run lead during their losing streak, led 5-0 going into the ninth. The Pirates scored four runs and had the bases loaded before Adam LaRoche, who homered to start the inning, flew out to right field on a 3-2 pitch from Kerry Wood to end the game.

Blue Jays 7, Reds 5

At Toronto, Marco Scutaro hit a two-run homer,and Scott Rolen and Rod Barajas added solo shots as Toronto beat Cincinnati.

Pitching on three days' rest, left-hander Brian Tallet (5-4) matched a season-high with seven strikeouts in six shutout innings. He allowed three hits and walked one. Jason Frasor closed it for his second save in four chances.

Marlins 7, Orioles 6, 12 innings

At Miami, Jorge Cantu singled home Emilio Bonifacio with no outs in the 12th inning as Florida snapped Baltimore's five-game winning streak.

Brian Bass (4-2) began the 12th by walking Bonifacio and he advanced to second on a wild pitch with Hanley Ramirez batting. Ramirez was intentionally walked. Cantu lined a single to left and Luke Scott's throw home beat Bonifacio but the ball came out of catcher Gregg Zaun's glove on the tag.

Dodgers 5, White Sox 2

At Chicago, Hiroki Kuroda allowed four hits in 8 2-3 innings and James Loney hit a two-run homer as Los Angeles downed Chicago.

Kuroda (2-3) allowed only Paul Konerko's second-inning homer and Jermaine Dye's single until there were two outs in the ninth. Kuroda gave up two more hits, including Dye's RBI single, before Jonathan Broxton earned his 18th save by striking out Jim Thome.

Royals 2, Astros 1

At Houston, Zack Greinke pitched eight sharp innings for his first win in almost a month and Billy Butler homered as Kansas City beat Houston.

The victory breaks a five-game losing streak for the Royals, who have won just seven of their last 23.

Twins 7, Brewers 3

At Milwaukee, Joe Crede, Carlos Gomez and Brendan Harris combined to drive in six runs, all with two outs, as Minnesota beat Milwaukee in water damaged Miller Park.

It was the Brewers' fourth straight loss overall and fifth in a row to the Twins, who got off to a good start on their nine-game road trip.

Cardinals 3, Mets 0

At New York, Joel Pineiro pitched a career-best two-hitter to end a five-start losing streak for St. Louis.

Albert Pujols smacked a two-run single and Pineiro matched the Mets at the plate by himself. He doubled and scored in the third inning, then singled in the fourth.

Pineiro (6-8) got an astounding 22 outs on the ground in his fifth career shutout and 11th complete game.

Angels 4, Rockies 3

At Anaheim, he Colorado Rockies shouldn't have been too upset after losing for only the second time in 19 games. It was the way they lost that left everyone in the clubhouse as glum as a team on a 10-game skid.

Bobby Abreu drove in the tying and go-ahead runs with a bases-loaded single in the eighth inning after third baseman Ian Stewart messed up two bunt plays, and the Los Angeles Angels won 4-3 Tuesday night.

Diamondbacks 8, Rangers 2

An Phoenix, As Justin Upton slumped in April, critics suggested that he would be an ideal No. 3 hitter—at Triple-A Reno.

The 21-year-old outfielder has emerged from his early struggles to become one of the more potent three-hole hitters in the major leagues.

Upton homered, doubled and drove in three runs, and Max Scherzer won his third straight start as the Arizona Diamondbacks defeated Texas 8-2 on Tuesday night, sending the Rangers to their fifth straight loss.

Padres 9, Mariners 7

At Seattle, Chad Gaudin tied a career-high with 11 strikeouts and allowed only two runs over seven innings, and San Diego Padres survived a furious late rally.

After Ronny Cedeno walked to lead off the bottom of the ninth, Ichiro Suzuki singled off closer Heath Bell to bring the tying run to the plate. Bell then struck out Russell Branyan before pinch-hitter Mike Sweeney singled off the glove off third baseman Kevin Kouzmanoff to score Cedeno from second to pull to 9-7.

Giants 4, Athletics 1

At Oakland, Tim Lincecum had to work a little harder for this one. Even a few jams weren't enough to faze him.

The reigning NL Cy Young Award winner pitched a seven-hitter in another complete game against Oakland, Pablo Sandoval and Edgar Renteria each hit RBI doubles and the San Francisco Giants beat the Athletics 4-1 on Tuesday night.

Ramirez changes course on vow of silence

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Shortly after arriving in Albuquerque, Manny Ramirez vowed that he wouldn't do interviews until his suspension ends.

"I ain't talking today, baby," he declared. "Write what you want."

Manny being Manny, that lasted about an hour.

After going through stretching, warmups, batting practice and shagging flies in the outfield, Ramirez returned to a cramped corner of the Albuquerque Isotopes clubhouse and held court.

One of the first questions was about whether he used steroids.

"I'm not talking about it anymore," he said. "I already said what I'm going to say. I'm here to do my rehab, you know, and (go) to the game and get a couple at-bats and get back to the big-league team."

The Los Angeles Dodgers slugger is in Albuquerque to get into playing shape as he prepares to return from a 50-game suspension for violating baseball's drug rules.

He was listed as leadoff hitter and playing left field Tuesday night for the Dodgers' Triple-A affiliate. Albuquerque Isotopes manager Tim Wallach said Ramirez will play four innings on Tuesday, five on Wednesday and seven on Thursday.

"It's more to get him on the field, to get him some innings out in left field, physically get him moving around," Wallach said. "The at-bats are important as well, just to see live pitching."

It wasn't certain if Ramirez will see the series finale on Friday.

"I'm sure they'll let me know on that soon," Wallach said.

Ramirez is expected to rejoin the Dodgers on July 3 at San Diego. He shrugged off questions about his public image, coming after several Albuquerque fans said Monday they disapprove of his drug use but were still excited to see him play.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Manny Ramirez gives high-fives to teammates before playing for the Dodgers' Triple-A team, the Albuquerque Isotopes, in a baseball game against the Nashville Sounds in Albuquerque N.M., on Tuesday, June 23, 2009.

"People love me everywhere I go," Ramirez said. "I'm excited to bring a lot of joy to a lot of people here. I feel good. I'm happy that I'm here."

Ramirez, who flew into Albuquerque aboard a Southwest Airlines commercial flight, took the field for warmups wearing a red Isotopes hat under his dreadlocks. He wore a white sports garment and white pants.

He said his plan was to work back into playing shape. Asked if he was close, he replied: "Not really close. I haven't played like in 50 days, but I'm going to catch up slowly, day by day."

Isotopes infielder Blake DeWitt, who has shuttled between the Dodgers and Albuquerque this season, said Ramirez can be a positive influence in the minor league clubhouse.

"He knows how to get ready," DeWitt said. "The guy's done this a long time. He's had a ton of success. ... I'm sure he's going to be trying to see a lot of pitches, get his timing down."

Wallach said he spoke with Ramirez and offered to do whatever the slugger needs to prepare for his return to the majors. He also said they didn't bother to go over the signs.

"I told him he's got the green light, not to worry about the signs," Wallach said, laughing. "I won't be bunting or hitting-and-running with him. If he wants to run, he can run."

In Chicago, Dodgers manager Joe Torre was thrilled that his suspended slugger was playing ball again.

"I don't care what the results are, I just want to get him in game situations," said Torre, whose team was playing the White Sox. "He hasn't been missing for this period of time before. As much work as you do in the weight room and running on the field, it's still not the same as playing in a game. It's the game situation that sort of changes the atmosphere and your approach. I need to get him a number of games to get into the competition."

Softball fundraiser for Roque this weekend

Members of the softball and baseball community will be holding a fundraising tournament for former Saipan Little League Baseball statistician Roque Celis this weekend at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Tournament coordinator Janece Camacho said Celis is in a hospital in the Philippines after he was paralyzed (waist down) late last month.

Before he became ill, Celis helped out in keeping statistics for the Big, Senior, and Junior League divisions in the last 2009 SLLB season.

"We are calling on the public, especially the softball and baseball community to come out and help Roque and his family. Roque in the past several years has been a big help to baseball and softball, now it's our turn to reciprocate his kindness," Camacho said.

Camacho added those who would not be able to play, but still would like to give donations are welcome.

Organizers are looking to have eight teams in the tournament that will run from Friday to Sunday. However, Camacho said they can accept a maximum of 12 teams. Tournament format will be double elimination with winners receiving in kind prizes from donors. The entry fee is $150 and the tournament is co-ed.

Games on Friday will start at 6pm, while Saturday matches will begin at 3pm. Sunday games will kick off at 9am.

Interested teams are asked to attend a meeting today at 6pm at the pavilion inside the Oleai Sports Complex.

For more information, contact Camacho at 789-7570 or Roy Celis at 285-9479. ***(Roselyn Monroyo))***

CNMI

From Page 28

the CNMI, while Vicente Cabrera, Jr., Anthony Aldan, and Ignacio nailed one RBI each.

The CNMI Big Leaguers had a six-run bottom of the first en route to the shutout win.

The CNMI Big League All-Stars are managed by Tony Satur and Robert Magofna with Tyrone Omar as coach and assistant coach, respectively.

Other members of the team are Ben Guerrero, Chad Atalig, Elliot Tenorio, Giovanni Ayuyu, Ionis Rasa, Jared Camacho, Juan Iguel, Ryan Lisua, Vicente Camacho, and Wensiner Namelo.

The CNMI youth sluggers won last year's ASPAC and earned a World Series ticket after outclassing the Philippines, 8-7, in the 2008 regionals held on Saipan.

The CNMI Senior All-Stars also prevailed in their first game last Tuesday, topping Indonesia, 7-3.

Joshua Jones pitched for the Patrick Tenorio-managed Senior All Stars in five innings and had five strikeouts. Jones gave up three runs, had three errors, allowed three hits, and walked three. Dominic Chargualaf and Joseph Palacios, Jr. pitched one inning apiece and allowed only a combined four hits.

Juan Maratita led the CNMI Senior League All-Stars' offense, going 3-for-4 at the plate and posting two RBIs. Eric Tenorio was only 2-for-4, but also made two RBIs. Nokki Saralu went only 1-for-3, but had a two-run double. Tom Agulto had a sacrifice fly on third base.

Jonathan Tenorio is the Senior All-Stars' coach and he is assisted by John Manibusan. Also on the team are Antonio Aguon, Davenalt Jones, Eli Augenbaugh, Harry Nakamura, Jonathan Celis, Mart Sablan, Miguel Taisacan, Peter Tenorio, and Richard Dela Cruz.

"It was a very good start for our Senior and Big League teams. It was a big win because when you are a visiting team, you have to play strong at the very start to get things going and take out the home crowd factor," CNMI District Administrator James Ada said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

"I hope they will keep their momentum in the succeeding days and our Junior League All-Stars will be inspired by these two wins," he added.

Ada got what he hoped for, as the Junior League All-Stars debuted against Hong Kong yesterday with a 19-8 win.

Jeremy Rabauliman led the Junior All-Stars victory in five innings after hitting a two-run single that brought Patrick Tenorio and A.J. Lizama home.

The CNMI Junior All-Stars are also composed of Christian Mizer, Henry Rabauliman, Lamarc Iguel, Frankie Camacho, Ricardo Dela Cruz, Brian Camacho, Alan Aguon, Jared Sablan, Arthur Jebehn, Poland Masaharu, and Joseph Atalig.

Thelma Mizer is the team's manager, while Oliver Secharmidal and Bernard Cabrera are the coach and assistant coach, respectively.

CNMI MEN

From Page 28

in the hosts' game, as they had only nine assists against the Boomers 27, giving Australia a 54-18 scoring advantage.

The game was decided as early in the first quarter when the Boomers took a 28-10 lead. Austria scored most of its points inside, while the CNMI struggled, as it had to change its shots in midair when facing the long arms of Boomers defenders. On several occasions, when CNMI players had the opportunity to drive to the baskets, they were still forced to kick the ball out after being trapped by taller, but quick Australian defenders.

"The good thing about our game against Australia was we were able to run some of our plays. We just can't complete them. Fitness-wise, we can match up with them, as we can run the floor, too," Aguon added.

The Boomers put some life in the one-sided affair with a couple of dunk shots. Jeromie Hill, who had his first slam in the second quarter, made two in the fourth, with the last one, moving the crowd up on their feet, as the 6'9" giant hanged on the rim for a couple of seconds after a two-handed jam in front of Jomary Tumaquip. Hill finished with a game-high 22 points. Sean Mullan also had a two-handed slam in the fourth period and tallied 12 markers.

Jericho Cruz paced CNMI with 13 points and was the lone double figure scorer for the hosts. Pete Iguel, who scored 19 against Guam, was held to four points, as his slashing moves and long jumpers did not work against Australia's giants.

In other results in the afternoon games, Australia's Opals topped New Zealand, 77-62, to remain on top of the women's division with a 3-0 record.

The Opals will go for a sweep tonight against the CNMI cagebelles. The Tall Ferns will collide with New Caledonia in the other women's game for the No. 2 and 3 spots in the team standings. Guam had completed its assignments in the elimination round and will advance to the Top 4. The CNMI cagebelles are out of the medal round.

In the men's division, New Zealand hopes to recover from a 52-62 loss to New Caledonia last Monday when the Tall Blacks face Guam at 3pm. A New Zealand win will put the team to the No. 3 spot and relegate Guam to No. 4.

In the semifinals tomorrow, the No. 1 team will be paired against the No. 4 squad, while the No. 2 and 3 teams will battle in the other semis pairing.

Men's

Australia 107 – Hill 22, Warbout 16, Purser 13, Mullan 12, Maxwell 10, Simpson 10, Bairstow 9, Phillips 6, Wilcher 5, Daly 4.

CNMI 41 – Cruz 13, Tumaquip 7, Johnson 5, Rabauliman 5, Ada 4, Fitial 3, Barcinas 2, Iguel 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-10, 55-21, 74-29, 107-41.

KABIRIEL

From Page 28

Gold Coast Airport Marathon early next month.

"I feel good. I feel OK. It's part of my training for the Oceania [Half] Marathon. Matt gave us a good pace in the first part of the run, but he kind of tapered at the end. Me, Ronald, and Matt were all bunched up together at the start. I left them at the turnaround," he said.

Kabiriel also thanked his company, Safety First, for its support as well as Northern Marianas Athletics for giving him a chance to compete in Australia.

Completing the Top 5 for the men was barefooted Yoshi Suzuki and Michael Brown, who came in one after the other (27:36 and 27:37).

MARK RABAGO
Noriko Jim crossed the finish line.

Jim, for her part, was the first female to cross the finish line with her time of 28:12. Coming in second and third in the women's division were Mieko Carey (30:23) and Monica Yamaguchi (33:26). Carey used the Silver Streak as training for the 2009 XTERRA Japan.

R.J. Pierce (boys' 1-10), Mancao (men's 11-20), Ashley Northen (women's 11-20), Lisha Zhu (women's 21-30), Villafria (men's 31-40), Carey (women's 31-40), Gary Bandoja (men's 41-50), Dawn Hammermeister (women's 41-50), Chang Whan Jang (men's 28:29), Yamaguchi (33:26), Richard Pierce (men's 61-and-over), and Bobbi Grizzard (women's 61-and-over) topped their respective age groups.

Kabiriel and company took home assorted gift items from DFS Galleria.

DFS Galleria sales assistant manager Wolf Mojica, who has coordinated the event since its inception in 1993, said Saturday's turnout of 63 was the lowest in the history of the Silver Streak.

"This is probably the smallest crowed we've ever had I'm sorry to say. But that's OK the money, the $600 that we have, will go to a good cause."

Mojica said he's been holding the Silver Streak the past 16 year as a promise to his old boss' widow.

He said Picarro, who served as DFS Galleria president from 1979 to 1992, passed away in 1993 at a young 69 years old.

"I promised his wife that as long as I'm on Saipan I will hold a memorial run for him. So today is our 16th annual because I'm still here! The reason we call it the Silver Streak is because Mr. P. had white hair—silver hair—and he would run up and down Beach Road, you know like a streak so they call it Silver Streak," Mojica reminisced to participants after the event.

MVA

From Page 28

pan's coastal areas.

"This event is a lot more easier and people of all ages can compete," said Tenorio.

MVA came up with the idea to teach local swimmers how to use flippers properly.

Despite last Saturday's minor kinks, which saw a number of swimmers stung by jellyfish, organizers and competitors echoed positive comments.

"It's a good idea to hold this kind of event on Saipan. It would be a surprise if they don't hold it next year," said overall winner Rezne Wong, a veteran swimmer from Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan.

Wong said the race was hard at first but after a few moments of getting familiarized, he felt better.

Fellow Tsunami Saipan swimmer Angel Marie Tan, who placed second in the female category, said it was not about winning the race but the fun of joining the competition.

"It was a nice experience. It does not matter if you lose. What matters most is that you are happy doing it and you just want to do it again next time," said the 10-year-old.

Swimmers did not anticipate the jellyfish attacks with five of them not able to finish the race due to pain from the sting despite pre-competition warnings from organizers.

"It's kind of awful because I was stung also but it was not a good idea for me to quit the race. I just pushed myself forward," Tan said.

The spokesperson of the large Japanese group that took part in the race complained that there were no markings along the swim course.

Kazue Noguchi, who topped the 60-67 years old category with a time of 40 minutes and 30 seconds, advised the organizers to indicate the exact course by putting up markings next time.

Noguchi also observed that debris along the way somehow affected the swimmers.

Tenorio acknowledged those minor problems and promised that all these things would be taken into considerations in the race's next staging.

But overall, Noguchi said Managaha Island is nice and beautiful even as the tide was a little bit rough.

"It was challenging for us and we would like to come back next year, Noguchi," said through interpreter, Nanako Shibuya.

Tenorio said MVA is making sure that the visitors will bring thoughts about the beauty of the CNMI.

Managaha Island, he said, is an appropriate venue for this type of race but MVA is also considering other areas.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	43	27	.614	–
New York	38	32	.543	5
Toronto	39	33	.542	5
Tampa Bay	37	35	.514	7
Baltimore	32	38	.457	11

Central Division

Detroit	39	31	.557	–
Minnesota	36	36	.500	4
Chicago	33	37	.471	6
Kansas City	30	39	.435	8 1/2
Cleveland	30	42	.417	10

West Division

Los Angeles	37	32	.536	–
Texas	37	32	.536	–
Seattle	35	35	.500	2 1/2
Oakland	31	39	.443	6 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	37	31	.544	–
New York	35	34	.507	2 1/2
Florida	36	36	.500	3
Atlanta	34	36	.486	4
Washington	20	48	.294	17

Central Division

St. Louis	40	32	.556	–
Milwaukee	37	33	.529	2
Chicago	34	33	.507	3 1/2
Cincinnati	34	35	.493	4 1/2
Houston	32	36	.471	6
Pittsburgh	31	39	.443	8

West Division

Los Angeles	47	24	.662	–
San Francisco	38	32	.543	8 1/2
Colorado	37	34	.521	10
San Diego	31	38	.449	15
Arizona	30	41	.423	17

Yesterday's Games

Boston 11, Washington 3
Detroit 5, Chicago Cubs 4
Cleveland 5, Pittsburgh 4
Toronto 7, Cincinnati 5
Philadelphia 10, Tampa Bay 1
Florida 7, Baltimore 6, 12 innings
Atlanta 4, N.Y. Yankees 0
St. Louis 3, N.Y. Mets 0
Kansas City 2, Houston 1
Minnesota 7, Milwaukee 3
L.A. Dodgers 5, Chicago White Sox 2
Arizona 8, Texas 2
L.A. Angels 4, Colorado 3
San Francisco 4, Oakland 1
San Diego 9, Seattle 7

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

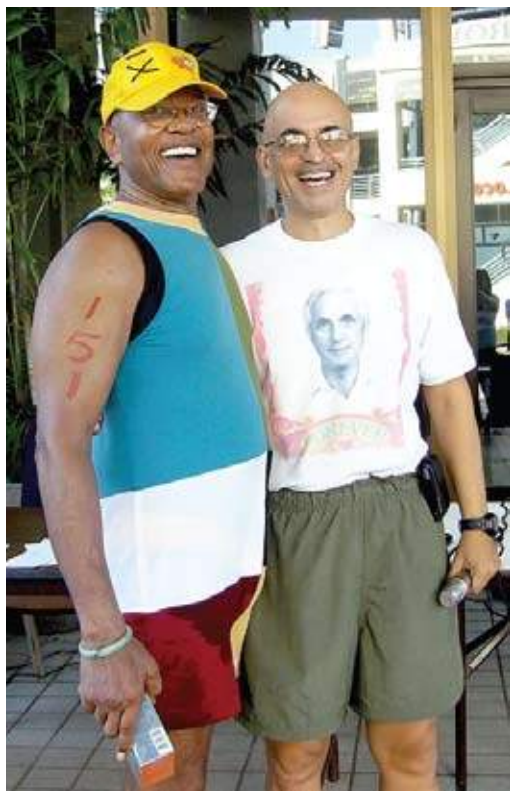
16th Annual Thomas Picarro Fun Run

Photos By
MARK RABAGO

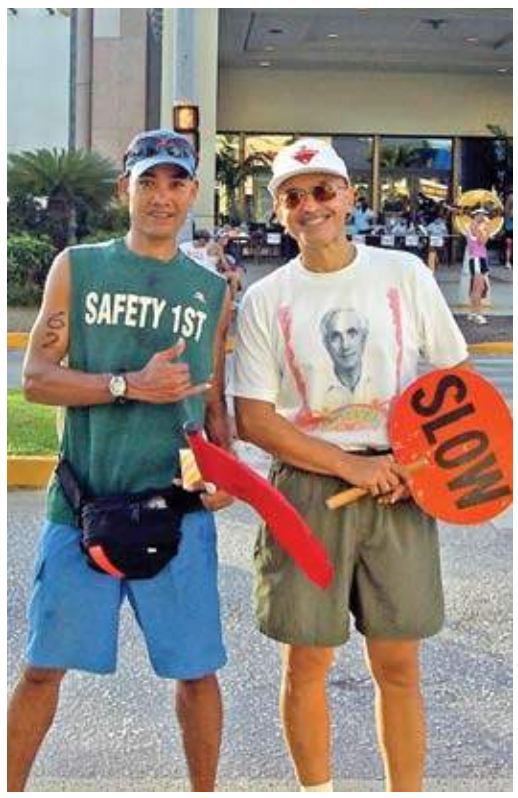
The 63 participants of last Saturday's 16th Annual Thomas Picarro Fun Run begin their run/walk toward the Japanese World War II tank.

Robert Torres and Lynn Tenorio crossed the finish line of the Silver Streak together.

Ronald Villafria finished second in the 5-kilometer fun run with a time of 27:06.



Jawn Joyner is one of only two participants that have taken part in all 16 editions of the Silver Streak. He's seen here receiving his prize from event coordinator Wolf Mojica.



Organizer Wolf Mojica poses with Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel while serving as "traffic official" after winning the Silver Streak.

Bobbi Grizzard receives her prize from event coordinator Wolf Mojica after topping the women's 61-and-over age group with a time of 1:13:48.

Matthew Mancao came in third in the Silver Streak after checking in at 27:14.

R.J. Pierce was the Silver Streak's youngest participant at 7 years old.

Ashley Northen topped the 11-20 women's age group with her time of 52:35.

Yoshi Suzuki and Michael Brown came one after the other in the fourth and fifth spots with times of 27:36 and 27:37.

Softball fundraiser for Roque this weekend

Members of the softball and baseball community will be holding a fundraising tournament for former Saipan Little League Baseball statistician Roque Celis this weekend at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Safin's last Wimbledon ends with 1st-round loss

It seemed fitting, somehow, that two-time major champion Marat Safin's always-turbulent relationship with Wimbledon would end this way.

24

CNMI whips Indonesia in Senior, Big League

Junior All-Stars crush Hong Kong

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Big League All-Stars started their title defense in the 2009 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament in Indonesia with a bang, routing the hosts, 11-0, during the opening day of the regionals last Tuesday at Gelora Bung Karno Baseball Field in Jakarta.

Elton Santos pitched in no relief and without errors in five innings, struck out 10, and walked two.

Other highlights of the CNMI Big League All-Stars' strong start was David Camacho's solo homer at the bottom of the second. Camacho made two more runs. Tony Rogolifoi had a one-run double and scored twice, while Ignacio Aldan made two hits and two runs. Rogolifoi, Ben Guerrero, Vicente Cabrera had two RBIs each for

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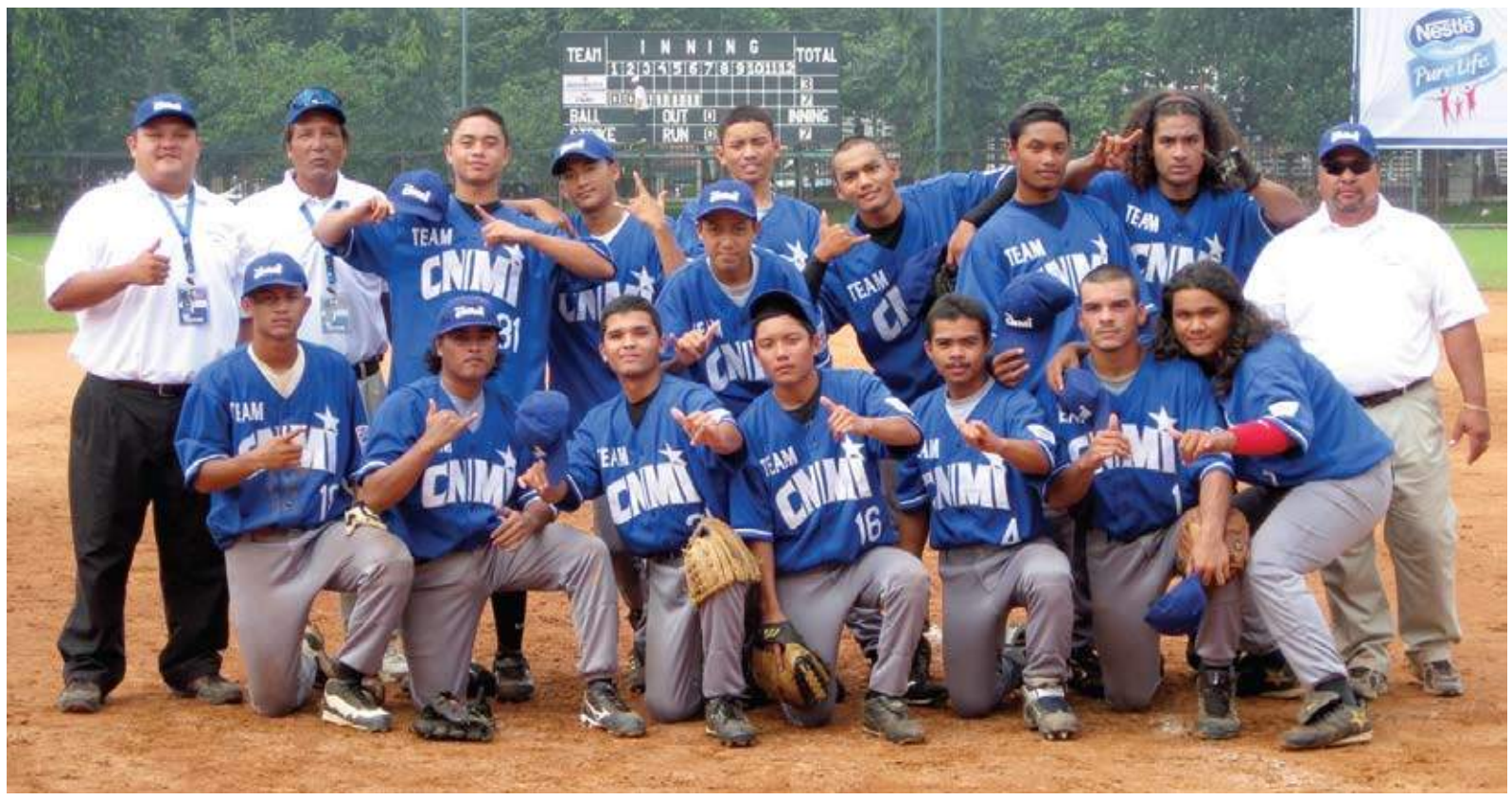

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI Senior League All-Stars are all smiles after their 7-3 win over Indonesia Tuesday at Gelora Bung Karno Baseball Field in Jakarta, Indonesia.

CNMI men no match against Boomers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI-Australia duel in the men's division of the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium was a proverbial David and Goliath tale with a different ending.

CNMI's slingshots were not powerful enough to down the mighty Australians, who walked away with a 107-41 victory.

The win allowed the Boomers to sweep the elimination round and secure the top seeding in the playoffs. The loss was the CNMI Men's Nationals third in a row, booting the hosts out of the medal round.

The CNMI cagers will close out their elimination round game tonight against another Goliath, the New Caledonia team, which has a player as tall as 6'10."

"Definitely, we could not match up with their ceiling," CNMI Men's National coach Rufino Aguon said. "We need more tall players in the future. For such a small island like us, it is so hard to find many tall players. Australia has a wide selection."

With Australia lording it over in the paint, the Boomers out-rebounded the CNMI Men's Nationals, 75-27. Australia's towering frontliners had an easier time attacking the CNMI's defense or the lack of it, resulting to the Boomers' 42-for-81 two-point field goal shooting. The CNMI had a dismal 13-for-55 clip. Overall, Australia went 46-for-92, as it added four triples, while the hosts recorded 16-for-76 after going 3-for-18 from downtown.

Aguon's wards had lesser errors in their game against the Boomers compared to their Monday night match over Guam. The CNMI had only 29 miscues against Australia, while they made more than 40 against Guam. However, team play was still lacking

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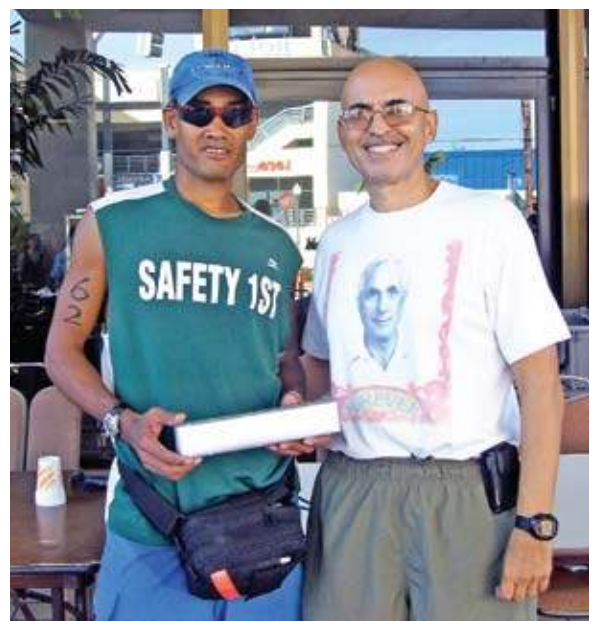
GAMES TODAY

1pm	**New Zealand vs New Caledonia** (women's)
3pm	**Guam vs New Zealand (men's)**
6pm	**Australia vs CNMI (women's)**
8pm	**New Caledonia vs CNMI (men's)**

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Australia's 6'7" forward Jan Warbout, left, pressures CNMI's 5'6" point guard Jomary Tumaquip from the backcourt during their game in the men's division of the 2008 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Kabiriel, Jim top Silver Streak



MARK RABAGO
Veteran runner Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel receives his prize from coordinator Wolf Mojica after topping last Saturday's 16th Annual Thomas Picarro Fun Run held along the Saipan Beach Pathway.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Veteran runners Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel and Noriko Jim topped last Saturday's 16th Annual Thomas Picarro Fun Run held along the Saipan Beach Pathway.

Named after the former DFS Galleria Saipan president, the Silver Streak—as it is also dubbed—started at the DFS stoplight and had runners run south toward the Japanese World War II tank and back.

Kabiriel was the first to cross the finish line with a time of 26:21. He was followed by Filipino runner Ronald Villafria and up-and-comer Matthew Mancao, who respectively came in at 27:06 and 27:14.

Kabiriel fancies calling himself as the Roadrunner Bunny and there was no denying that he owned the road last Saturday. He said he used the Silver Streak as training for his participation in the 31st Annual

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MVA wants to make flipper race a signature event

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Managing director Perry Tenorio brimmed with hope and confidence that the Marianas Visitors Authority could transform the just concluded Saipan International Flipper Open Water Race around Managaha Island into one of its signature events.

The flipper race, an event where swimmers compete with the use of fins and snorkels, is fast becoming a popular recreational sport in Ja-

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NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Swimmers hold their fins as they dash to the water at the start of the Inaugural International Flipper Open Water Race held last Saturday in the waters around Managaha Island.